METRO / A19

Actors Piolo, Sam file P12-M libel suit vs Lolit Solis for reporting they are gay

BUSINESS / B1

Balance-of-payments surplus in Jan.-Oct. hits all-time high $7.85B

NEWS / A2

Raul Gonzalez returns as DOJ secretary after kidney transplant

WORLD / A21

2 Koreas reach reconciliation deal with cross-border trains

SC chief bewails silence on killing of journalists

By Leila B. Salaverria

SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE REYNAto Puno has bewailed the silence that surrounds the killing of journalists and the slow resolution of the cases.

Since 2003, Puno said 33 Filipino journalists have been killed in the line of duty,

SC CHIEF/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, November 17, 2007 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 342 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Web killing men's mags; women's mags thriving

SI YEMPRE.. KASI LIBRE!

BARCELONA—LEADing European publishers are coming to terms with what teenage boys and men have known for years—the Web beats magazines in grab-

WEB/ A6

'Solved but not closed'

Salapuddin admits knowing suspects but denies hand in blast

By Alcuin Papa and Norman Bordadora

THE NATIONAL POLICE yesterday declared the Batasan bombing case "solved but not closed" with the killing of three alleged Abu Sayyaf members but said they had yet to pinpoint who the mastermind was.

At the same time, former Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Rep. Gerry Salapuddin admitted knowing two of the three supposed Abu Sayyaf members gunned down by the police in a raid in Payatas, Quezon City, the other day but Salapuddin denied involvement in the Batasan attack in which his staunch political rival, Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar, was killed.

Salapuddin said he was anxious to prove his innocence because he was sure relatives of Akbar would link the slain congressman's political opponents to the bombing.

"I strongly deny any involvement in the Batasan bomb explosion," Salapuddin told the INQUIRER.

The chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), Director Geary Barias said the Batasan case was "solved but not closed."

"We now have a better understanding of what happened there and the possible motive of the attack. But we don't know yet what is the participation of the personalities mentioned," Barias said.

Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Avelino Razon said in a press conference Salapuddin was still not considered a suspect.

Razon noted Salapuddin's admission that he knew most of the alleged Abu Sayyaf members killed or arrested in the Payatas raid.

SOLVED/ A8

No. 8 car frequent visitor on Anahaw St.

By Jeannette I. Andrade

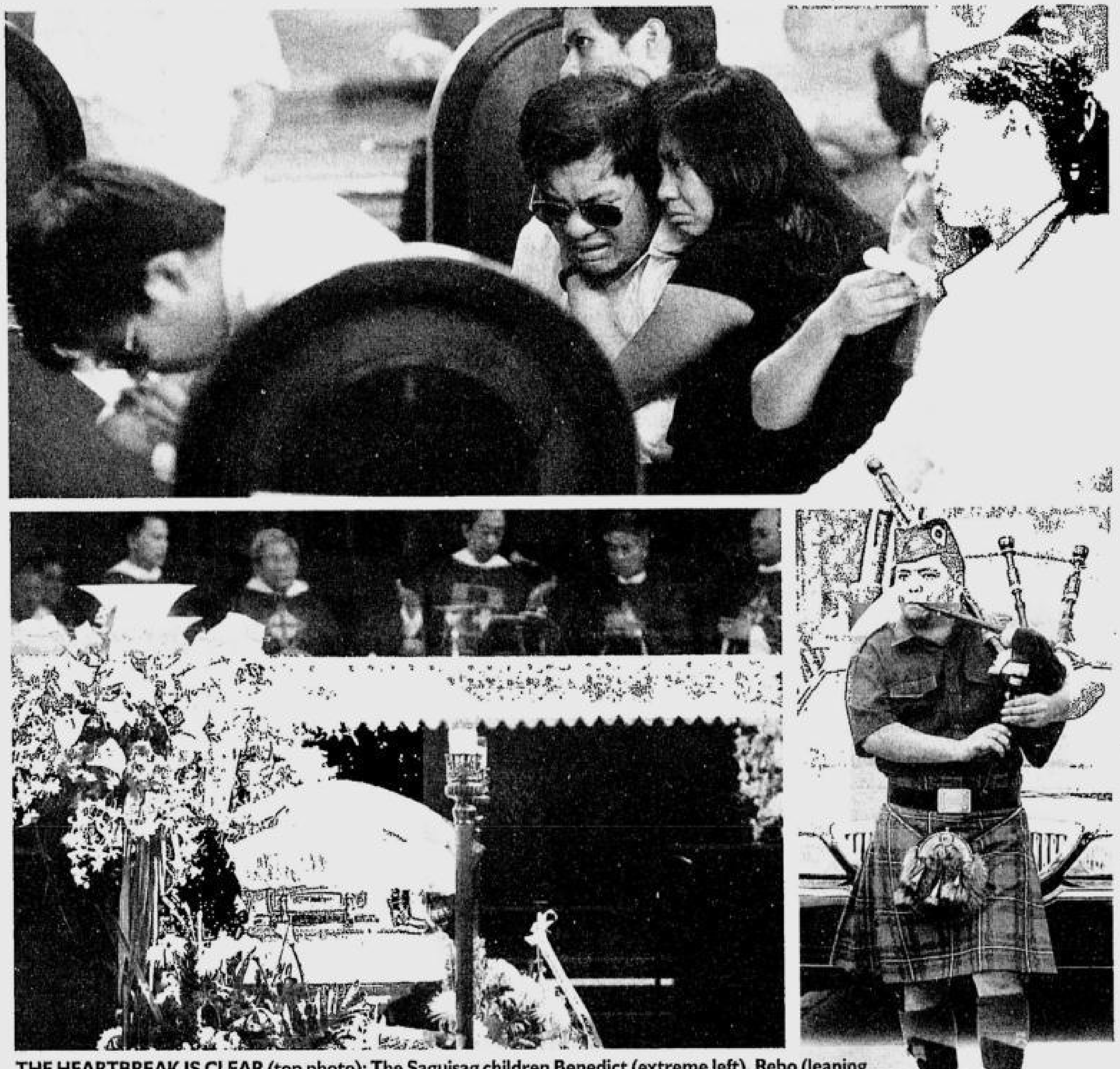
ONE THING THAT STRUCK neighbors of the occupants of a 2-story house in Barangay Payatas in Quezon City was the frequent appearance in the area of a vehicle bearing plate No. 8.

That plate number is reserved for members of the House of Representatives.

Another thing they found strange was one of the occupants often bought e-load using different SIM numbers.

The three occupants of the house on Block 4 Lot 23, Anahaw St., Violago Homes Subdivision, Payatas-B were killed the other day in an apparent shootout with the police, who claimed they

NO. 8 CAR/ A6



THE HEARTBREAK IS CLEAR (top photo): The Saguisag children Benedict (extreme left), Rebo (leaning forward), Mick embraced by sister Lara and Caissa leans on Rebo's fiancee, Jackie, at the St. Scholastica's College chapel in Manila (above, left) where Dulce Saguisag lay in state for seven days. A bagpiper (at right) leads the funeral march at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City. REM ZAMORA

'Papa, Mama inseparable' but not for one final glimpse

THE ULTIMATE LOVE TEAM

By Allison W. Lopez and Tarra Quismundo

DULCE QUINTANS SAGUISAG'S ELDEST CHILD made the family's heartbreak clear: That while his parents were "inseparable for more than 40 years," they could not be together for "one final glimpse."

A bagpiper played a mournful "Amazing Grace" as Dulce, 64, was buried at around 12:50 p.m. yesterday in a granite tomb atop that of her mother, Paz Quintans, at the Garden of Reverence, among the oldest burial grounds in the 106-hectare Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

Her children Rebo, Lara, Benedict, Mick and Caissa and her siblings Pat Bernad, Alma Kern and Gina Stacher, along with other kin and close friends, exchanged embraces between sobs as they said their final goodbye.

Speaking for his family at the funeral service at

PAPA, MAMA/ A8

Rene asked docs to let him attend burial

By DJ Yap

ON THE MORNING HIS WIFE WAS TO BE laid to rest, Rene Saguisag asked his doctors to be allowed to go to her funeral.

"He motioned, 'Can I go?'" Dr. Eric Nubla, chief of the Makati Medical Center's patient relations office, said yesterday. But the man was lying on a hospital bed with tubes attached to his body, making it impossible for him to meet the conditions for his doctors' permission.

"He wanted to attend but we told him and the family that there's a minimum requirement that can't be achieved right now," said Dr. Victor Alvarez, who leads the team of specialists attending to the former senator.

Alvarez said the conditions were that the 68-year-old patient had to be free of all tubes, could sit up comfortably, was pain-free, and was conscious and lucid.

Of these conditions, the neurosurgeon said, Saguisag met only the last.

RENE ASKED/ A8

Walkout mars court martial hearings

By Nikko Dizon

TEMPERS FLARED YET AGAIN at the court-martial hearing yesterday of 28 military officers accused of leading the failed power grab of February 2006, with one defense lawyer railing at what she said was the "highly questionable acts" of the military tribunal.

A number of the accused officers, among them Marine Colonels Ariel Querubin and Achilles Segumalian, stood up and called the lead military prosecutor, Lt. Col. Feliciano Loy, a "liar."

The highest-ranked among them, former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, and Marine Lt. Col. Orlando de Leon, staged a brief walkout.

Loy and defense lawyer Vicente Verdadero engaged in a shouting match.

The bone of contention was whether or not Army Scout Ranger Lt. Homer Estolas had already exercised his right to peremptory challenge, the privilege granted to an accused in a court-martial to reject any member of the court without having to cite any grounds at any time before arraignment.

Defense lawyer Gilbert Gullas said that even before Estolas could avail of the privilege, the members of the court-martial panel took their oath which formally convened the

WALKOUT/ A4

Davao farmer walks home to freedom on amparo

By TJ Burgonio

A YOUNG FARMER, WHO WAS held and tortured by the military on suspicion he was a communist rebel, walked home a free man on Wednesday after a local court ruled favorably on his petition for the writ of amparo.

Luicito Bustamante was ordered released from military custody by the regional trial court in Davao City last Wednesday afternoon after hearing his petition, the human rights group Karapatan said yesterday.

Bustamante, 22, became the second man in a week to get such a relief from the courts. In the petition, his mother prayed for his immediate release from military custody.

Executive Judge Isaac Robillo ruled that nobody should curtail Bustamante's liberty, and

DAVAO/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

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RP, Japan eye side deal

Accord to correct flaws in Jpepa, says Miriam

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY crafting a side agreement with Japan that will address all concerns on the ratification of the Japan Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) in a last-ditch bid to save the treaty from being rejected at the Senate.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said a side agreement was necessary to correct the provisions that give the Japanese parity rights over investment areas reserved only for Filipinos under the Constitution.

"He (Sen. Mar Roxas) and I have already agreed in principle that we have to find a way so that the treaty will not be declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court but will also be recipient of the approval and consent of Japan. It is very, very tricky. It depends on the way the language (of the treaty) will be couched. Remember that no state, particularly Japan, wants to lose face, so we cannot say that this treaty is unconstitutional under Philippine law," said Santiago in an interview with reporters.

As chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, Santiago has taken the initiative "to draft the diplomatic language and consult with DFA and the Japanese ambassador on whether the language is diplomatic enough that it will be considered acceptable by Japan."

"If Japan does not consent, nothing will come out of these efforts. We cannot just run the risk of campaigning just for concurrence by the Senate plenary only to have it rejected as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. It is my prediction as a humble scholar of constitutional law that it will be declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court," said Santiago, who based her views on former Supreme Court Associate Justice Florentino Feliciano's opinion that the treaty was unconstitutional.

Santiago was hoping to accommodate the constitutional dimension in the treaty because it "will be an embarrassment for both the President and the Philippine Senate and at the same time, a ground for dispute with Japan in an international court."

Santiago said most senators believe they "must save the treaty because there are good provisions there" but only if safety nets would be put in place.

She noted that the main concern of senators was that Japan appeared to have set more reservations in the treaty than the Philippines which had fewer reservations than Thailand and Malaysia's treaty with Japan.

"When they (Japan) were negotiating the treaty, the Japanese government's panel were very alert. They made very comprehensive reservations. Unfortunately for us, the reservations we made are too few. What happens now under the treaty is that the Philippines is in a disadvantage. The negotiators made reservations to the "National Treatment" clause, the "Most Favored Nation" clause, and the "Prohibition Against Performance Requirements."

Under the "National Treatment" clause, the state must accord to the nationals of the other state the same treatment but you are allowed to make reservations. There are reservations that are much longer than ours," said Santiago.

Santiago proposed that the Philippines make a provision in the side agreement that would allow the Philippines to make further reservations within a year after signing the trade pact to ensure constitutionality of the treaty.

The last Jpepa hearing will be held next Friday, Nov. 23, with Roxas taking over the joint committee report.

Raul Gonzalez is back

By Leila B. Salaverria

AFTER A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT and more than two months of medical leave, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday reassumed his post, saying he is ready to work and and to face even his critics.

Gonzalez, who underwent the operation in September, briefly visited the DOJ yesterday morning and issued a memorandum announcing his return back and scheduled a staff meeting on Monday.

He also directed personnel detailed to the Office of the Justice Secretary to return to their posts.

"Be advised that I have re-assumed by office as Secretary of Justice effective November 16, 2007," he said in his memorandum.

Gonzalez said he feels fine, although his legs were not as strong as before. He said that his health would still be monitored by his aides, as well as by his wife and two of his children who are doctors.

There are dietary restrictions he has to deal with, since he has been advised to stay away from caffeine and avoid bananas because too much potassium is bad for his heart. He also has to monitor his blood sugar, he added.

Gonzalez said his doctors gave him clearance to resume his job, and added that he is more than ready to tackle the work and face even his critics.

"I said I shall return, and I have returned. I'm ready to resume my duties for my country and for my President," he said in a phone interview.

WHAT'S INSIDE

ERAP scoffs at calls to rescind his pardon /A3

COPS quiz pa, brothers for Mariannet's rape /A9

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ORIX METRO

Erap scoffs at calls to rescind his pardon

By Kristine L. Alave
and TJ Burgonio

CONVICTED PLUNDERER EX-President Joseph Estrada yesterday scoffed at those calling for the revocation of the pardon granted to him by President Macapagal-Arroyo or even at the possibility of such an event occurring, claiming that the executive clemency he got was absolute and unconditional.

But if the President should decide to rescind the pardon, Estrada said he would accede to the decision and chalk it up to a "flawed justice system."

"It's up to them. They're the ones in power. They can do anything they want," said Estrada who was found guilty of plunder by the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court last September and sentenced to life imprisonment.

"If they do that, I can't do anything about it," he added.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio has urged the government to rescind the pardon granted to Estrada for failing to surrender the assets ordered forfeited by the Sandiganbayan.

By questioning the forfeiture, Estrada was violating the terms and conditions of his pardon, Villa-Ignacio said.

Some civil society groups joined Villa-Ignacio's call which Estrada dismissed as publicity-seeking.

Estrada insisted that what was granted to him was an unconditional clemency.

"It was not a conditional pardon. They restored my civil rights, my political rights. If there was a violation of the pardon, then they can take it back. But as far as I'm concerned, this is not conditional pardon," Estrada said in a phone interview.

Still in force

Actually, the pardon granted by the President did not affect the forfeiture aspect of the Sept. 12 Sandiganbayan judgment convicting Estrada of plunder and ordering the forfeiture of about P700 million worth of bank deposits and property.

Ms Arroyo's executive clemency order, read on national television by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye last Oct. 25, said the forfeiture of Estrada's property and money imposed by the Sandiganbayan would "remain in force and in full, including all writs and processes issued by the court...except for the bank accounts [Estrada] owned before his tenure as President."

Two weeks ago, the Sandiganbayan issued writs of execution of its Sept. 12 judgment, directing the court sheriff to recover the ill-gotten wealth of Estrada and seize other properties not covered by the writs if Estrada cannot pay all or part of his obligations.

Estrada, however, filed a motion last week to quash the writs, arguing that they went beyond the dispositive portion of he Sandiganbayan decision. A hearing on the motion scheduled for yesterday was rescheduled for Monday.

In its Sept. 12 judgment, the Sandiganbayan ordered the forfeiture of P545 million illegal gambling bribes that he pocketed, a P189 million commission that he collected for ordering the state pension funds to buy Belle Corp. shares, and the so-called Boracay mansion in Quezon City.

Sandiganbayan Sheriff Edgardo Urieta has so far managed to recover only a third of the assets, P215 million in deposits that the Banco de Oro-EPCI surrendered last Thursday.

The amount represents the principal plus interest of the P200 million deposited in the name of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation which the court said formed part of the P545.29 million that Estrada had amassed in illegal gambling bribes.

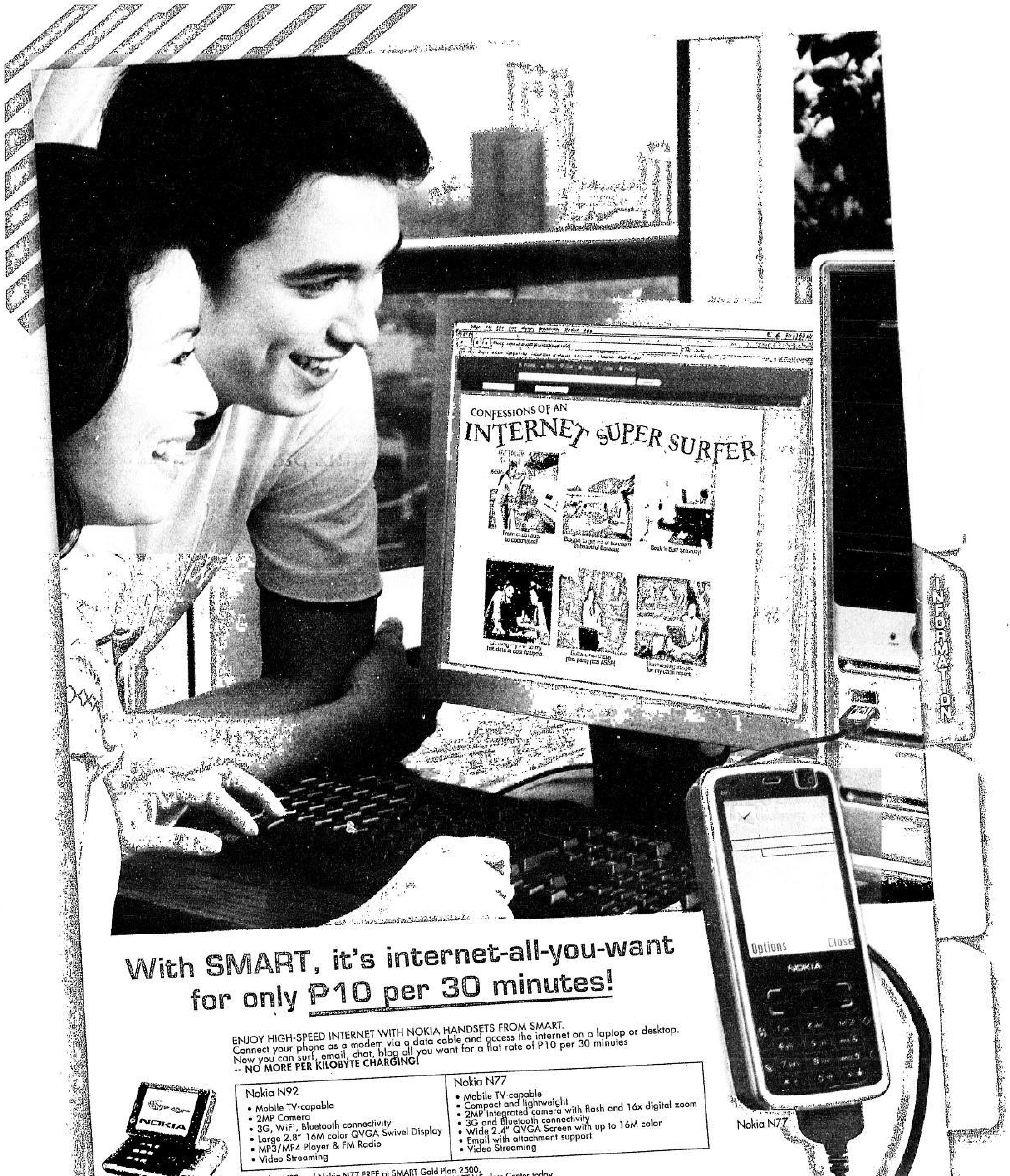
Estrada yesterday posed no objection to the Sandiganbayan confiscating the P215 million, saying "it wasn't for me, so what do I care if they get it."

He admitted the amount came from jueteng but claimed that it was given by former Ilocos Sur. Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson to the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.

"I never benefited from it. The beneficiaries are our Muslim youth," he said in an interview over dzMM.

But he said the court did not have the right to seize his "hard-earned" personal property that acquired before he became President, which he said he would not relinquish without a fight.

He claimed to come from an "upper-middle-class" family whose ancestors were so rich his family was able to live in various "mansions."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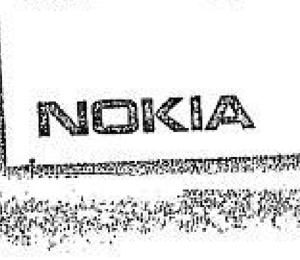

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Walkout mars court-martial hearings

From page A1

military tribunal.

According to court-martial rules, only after all peremptory challenges have been exhausted can the panel be sworn in.

The court-martial panel called for three recesses during the six-hour-long hearing to discuss the contentious issue, only to deny every motion made by the defense panel.

"This is plain and obvious suppression of the truth. We wanted Estolas to speak up but they didn't allow him to," Querubin told reporters afterward.

Photojournalists and TV cameramen were prohibited from .taking any footage of the hearing. They were not allowed to step out of the media holding area with their equipment.

Ignored

At the hearing, Estolas manifested in open court that he had not yet challenged any member of the panel.

But he was ignored, with the panel ruling in favor of the military prosecutors who claimed, based on the transcript of a previous hearing, that Estolas had said that he had already availed of the privilege.

Verdadero pointed out that the transcript of the Nov. 9 hearing was wrong and that it was actually Lt. Sandro Sereno and not Estolas who said he had exercised his peremptory challenge.

To clarify the issue, defense lawyer Vicente Caoile asked the court to name the panel member whom Estolas had supposedly challenged.

As the hearing dragged on, defense lawyers and the accused said Loy eventually changed his statement that Estolas had already exercised his peremptory challenge, saying instead that Estolas had in fact waived the privilege.

This prompted Querubin to stand up and order Sereno to show his face before the court panel to prove that he was not Estolas.

This triggered a melee that had court-martial president, Maj. Gen. Jogy Leo Fojas, calling for order and admonishing the lawyers and the accused.

Close to tears

"I am close to tears, your honor, in trying to understand your ruling ... I am forced to withdraw my appearance today because I cannot see the logic," Caoile, the lawyer of Marine Col. Armando Bañez, told the military tribunal.

Defense lawyer Trixie Cruz-Angeles told reporters that waiving a peremptory challenge is different from exercising it.

Angeles lamented that the military tribunal apparently "has no interest in knowing what is true or not."

"Its acts are highly questionable," as it would issue rulings without any explanation, said Angeles.

One of the military prosecutors, Maj. Emilio Felicen, told reporters that the panel's denial of the defense motion was "based on record" but declined to explain the basis for the denial, citing the principle of sub judice.

The accused military officers have called the court-martial hearing a "sham proceedings" and staged a walkout on Nov. 9.

Tension in court

Yesterday, they defied Fojas' order for them to stand up as Air Force Brig. Gen. Rolando Capacia took his oath as a member of the panel.

Tension gripped the courtroom as Fojas twice ordered the accused officers to stand up with the panel, the military prosecutors and the defense lawyers who grudgingly rose to their feet.

But the officers, led by Miranda, Querubin and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the former chief of the Scout Rangers, remained glued to their seats.

The accused officers are on trial for mutiny and for violations of the Articles of War for allegedly conspiring to march with their men to the Edsa Shrine and join antigovernment groups and declare their withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo on the 20th anniversary of the first People Power Revolution.

DEFIANCE: The 28 military officers including Marine Col. Ariel Querubin accused of plotting a coup last February believe they are going through a mock trial and refuse to obey orders from the military tribunal hearing the case in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. (BELOW): Soldiers wait for the court martial hearing to start. EDWIN BACASMAS

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Davao farmer walks home ...

From page A1

that his basic rights as a civilian should be upheld, said Kelly Delgado, Karapatan secretary general for southern Mindanao.

This was confirmed by Bustamante's lawyers.

"We're happy with the outcome. We hope that the judges in Manila will take their cue from the judges who acted quickly on such petitions," Karapatan secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez said in an interview.

"To act with dispatch and save innocent civilians from possible killing is after all the spirit of the writ of amparo."

The writ, a new remedy for victims of killings and disappearances introduced by the Supreme Court, requires respondents to take action to resolve a grievance and not merely deny the allegations against them.

The rules took effect on Oct. 24.

Stopped at a checkpoint

Bustamante and two friends were stopped at a military checkpoint in Barangay Malabog, Paquibato District in Davao City while riding a motorcycle on their way to distribute campaign materials on the afternoon of Oct. 27.

A certain Noli Obat, head of the paramilitary group manning the checkpoint, asked Bustamante to stay behind on suspicion he was a member of the New People's Army, but let the two others go.

Nothing was heard from him again.

On Nov. 7, the victim's mother Bebelita Bustamante and Karapatan filed a petition for writ of amparo with the RTC 11th Judicial Region in Davao City. They were aided by lawyers from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Union of People's Lawyers in Mindanao and the Free Legal Assistance Group.

The court set the hearing and heard the petition last Wednesday.

More teeth

At the hearing, the petitioner's lawyers requested that Bustamante be presented in court, a request which Judge Robillo granted despite objections from the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), according to Delgado.

The respondents, Noli Obat and Lt. Col. Alexander V. Ambal of the 73rd Infantry Battalion Philippine Army (73rd IBPA), were present and were represented by the OSG.

After hearing Bustamante's testimony, his lawyers' arguments and counter-arguments from the OSG lawyers, the judge ordered his release.

"I think the judge found the grounds in the petition justifiable, so he issued an order to produce him in court. And considering that the military presented him, the court ordered his release," lawyer Eduardo Estores, one of the petitioner's lawyers, said in an interview by phone.

"The writ of amparo has more teeth than the writ of habeas corpus."

Beaten and hogtied

During the hearing, Bustamante said he signed an affidavit admitting he was a member of the NPA, but his lawyers questioned this because it was signed in a military camp.

After his release, Bustamante confided to Karapatan members that he was allegedly brought to military camps in Davao City, and severely tortured into admitting he was a guerrilla, according to Delgado.

On Oct. 28, a day after he was questioned at a checkpoint, he was brought to a military camp of the 73rd Infantry Battalion in Paquibato District and there, he was allegedly beaten up, hogtied and his head was wrapped in a plastic bag.

"Because of the severe beating, he urinated and defecated. They forced him to eat his feces, and threatened to harm his family if he refused to admit he was a member of the NPA," Delgado said in an interview.

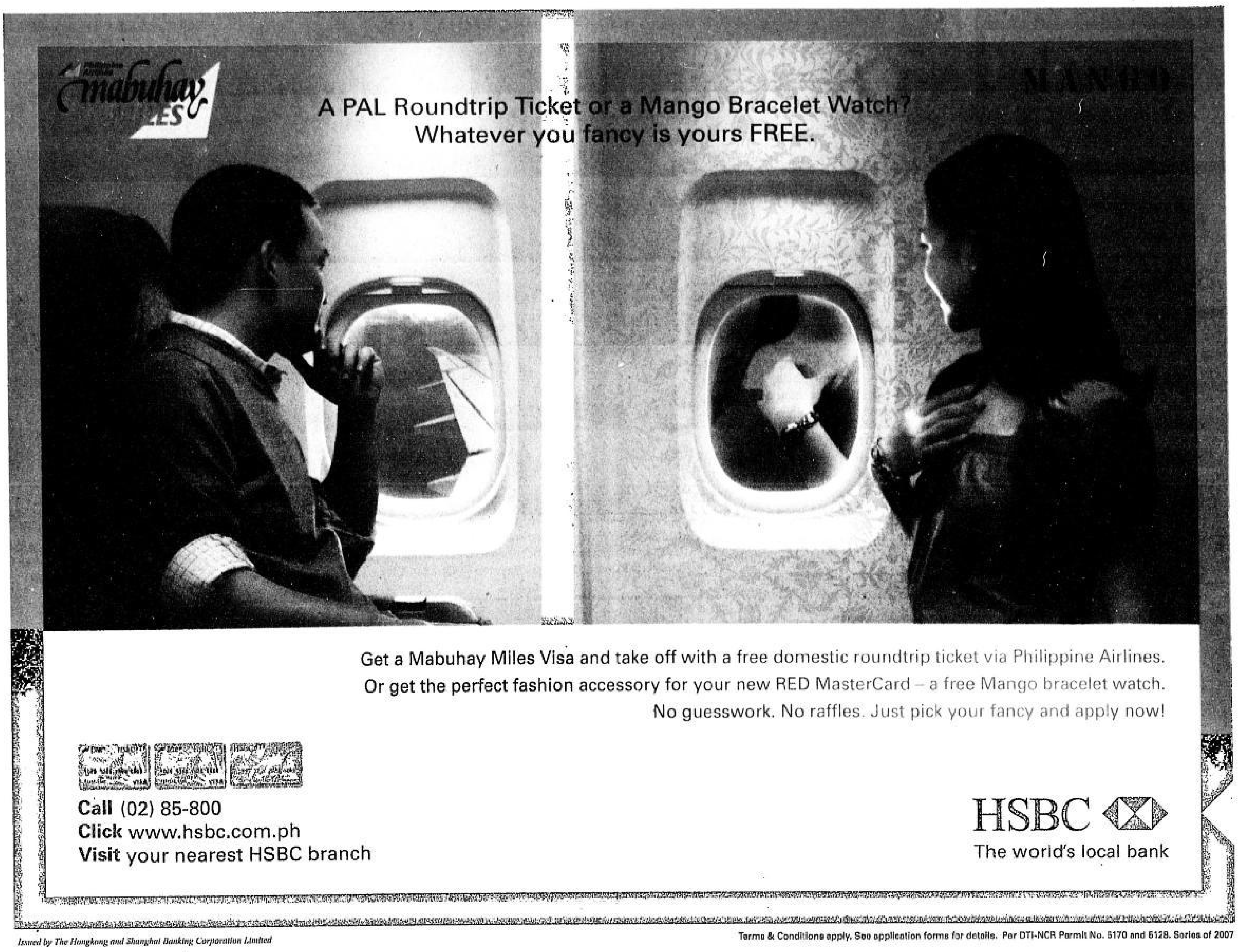
Fears for life

In the next couple of days, the young farmer was transferred to another military camp in Davao del Norte, and then allegedly tortured again, he said, quoting Bustamante. "They wrapped his head in a cellophane sprinkled with pepper," he said.

The torture stopped after his mother went to the press to report his disappearance.

Bustamante continued to feel pain from the torture. He was so traumatized by his arrest, detention and torture he refused to go back home, Estores said.

"Up to him [to decide whether to file counter-charges]. Security is also a problem. I think he fears for his life," he said.



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No. 8 car frequent visitor on Anahaw St.

From page A1

were members of the Abu Sayyaf Group.

Three others in the group were arrested.

Police identified the three fatalities as Redwan Idaman, his wife Saing and Abu Jandal, an alleged leader of the ASG.

As of 9 o'clock last night, the bodies of the three remained in a morgue at Prime Funeral Homes in Commonwealth, Quezon City, despite a Muslim custom of burying their dead within 24 hours.

The trio were killed at around 4 p.m. Thursday.

Neighbors interviewed by the INQUIRER said that they knew nothing about the occupants of the house, except that they were "quiet neighbors."

Claimants came

Bal Rous, funeral representative of Prime Funeral Homes, said three men had dropped by early yesterday morning wanting to claim the bodies.

"They introduced themselves as the townmates [of the dead] and asked me how they could claim the bodies," Rous said, describing the men as wearing the customary Muslim caps and speaking in what sounded like a Mindanao dialect.

Rous said that he told them they would need to present identification papers and that, if they were not relatives, they would have to show a letter of authorization from the spouse, sibling or parents to prove they were allowed to claim the bodies.

The three men did not present any IDs nor did they introduce themselves. They simply asked for a computation of how much the services at Prime Funeral Homes cost.

Then they left, promising to claim the bodies later yesterday or today.

Respect for Islam

Another group came at around 9 p.m. last night also to claim the bodies but as of press time, funeral parlor representatives and the group were still threshing out details.

A representative of the group said they wanted to bring the remains to Taguig City.

Rous said that the funeral home did not perform any autopsy on the bodies knowing it was against the Islamic faith.

"We know about the Muslim tradition of burying their dead within 24 hours. We are also aware that it is against their faith for an autopsy to be conducted on the bodies. We respect all religions here," he pointed out.

Neighbors of the three members claimed they were surprised by the police raid, saying they had no inkling that the house had been—according to police—a bandit lair.

Different numbers

One neighbor, Leticia Kagalawan, said what she noticed about the group was that one of them would constantly buy e-load for different cellular phone numbers.

The sari-sari store owner said: "Each time he would buy load from me, it was always for a different number. It was sometimes not for him but he would ask me to send the load to a number and then text for confirmation ... if the load had been sent."

Kagalawan said that she did not know if the man who constantly bought the e-load was one of the three killed in Thursday's raid.

"They looked normal and they did not look like Abu Sayyaf. That's why we were surprised when we were informed by police officers that they were bandits. They did not look the part," Kagalawan said.

She stressed that they never really knew the suspects because they moved in only some two to three weeks before the police assault.

Another neighbor, who asked not to be named, remarked that when the group moved into Block 4 Lot 23, she noticed that they had no appliances with them.

"I never saw them move in big appliances, like refrigerators or cabinets," the neighbor said.

License plate No. 8

But the group did have a car—a metallic green Toyota Corolla.

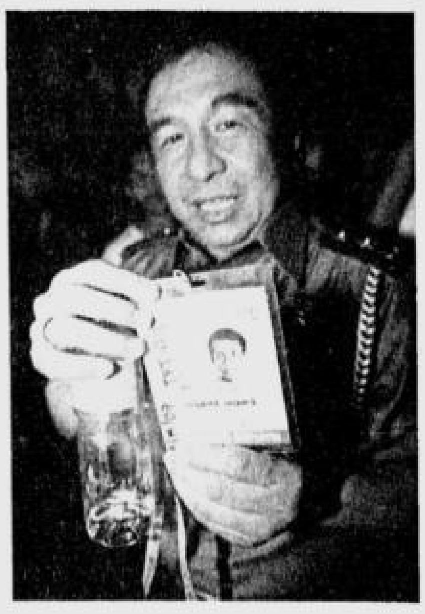
The neighbor added that she constantly saw another vehicle—using an "8" license plate, a number reserved for congressmen—come and park in front of the house.

She said: "We know nothing about them, except they were a quiet bunch who kept to themselves. We knew they were Muslims but we did not even think that they could be Abu Sayyaf."

Last night, a woman claiming to be the wife of one of the captured suspects, Khaider Awnal, denied in a radio interview that her husband was linked to the Abu Sayyaf.

She said Awnal had gone to Manila for a business trip, planning to sell a vehicle. The teary-eyed woman expressed shock that he was even implicated to the Batasan bombing.

A PNP medico-legal officer shows the chassis bearing the serial number of the motorcycle which allegedly carried the bomb. Based on the serial number, authorities traced the motorcycle owner which led them to the house on Anahaw Street, Barangay Payatas B, Quezon City. RAFFY LERMA



A PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE was found in the Payatas raid, among them, the ID of Ikram Indama, formerly the personal driver of the former Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin. RAFFY LERMA

NO MOURNERS and no relatives have claimed the bodies of three suspected Abu Sayyaf members at the Prime Funeral Parlor morgue on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City as of 9 last night. EDWIN BACASMAS

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Australian Federal Elections 2007

The Australian Prime Minister announced that the Federal Election will take place on Saturday 24th November 2007. For more information please visit the Australian Electoral Commission website, www.aec.gov.au and the Smartraveller website, www.smartraveller.gov.au, for the latest travel bulletin on the Australian Federal Election.

The Australian Embassy will be open for pre-poll voting during the hours of 8.30am-4.30pm, Monday-Friday from 12-23 November and Election Saturday, 24 November 2007 from 8.30am-4.30pm. The Embassy is located at 23rd Floor of the RCBC Plaza, Tower 2, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. We encourage you to make use of the pre-polling times to avoid queues on Saturday. For further updates, please visit the Australian Embassy Manila website at http://www.philippines.embassy.gov.au/

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Web killing men's mags; women's mags ...

From page A1

bing their eyeballs.

Magazine publishers such as London-based media group Emap, Germany's Axel Springer and France's Lagardere have seen a split growing in their magazine assets—those for women are surging while men's magazines droop.

"They are a casualty of the Internet. That is for sure," Dominique D'Hinnin, Chief Financial Officer of French media group Lagardere told investors at a Morgan Stanley technology, media and telecoms conference on Thursday.

"It is men's magazines that I am talking about, magazines with women with not too many clothes," he said.

Shifting investments

Steffan Naumann, chief operating officer and chief financial officer at Axel Springer, said segments such as those catering for women are growing, "but in Germany, certainly not the men's market category."

On Tuesday, London-based Emap said first-half underlying revenue in its consumer magazines division fell 6 percent.

However, this masked a strong performance by its women's weekly titles such as Grazia, Heat and Closer which grew 6 percent. Emap blamed a 14-percent slump in its portfolio of monthly magazines on weakness in men's titles.

D'Hinnin said publishers like Lagardere were dealing with the trend by shifting their investment plans and looking at Internet options.

China, Russia

Lagardere has pulled back from new launches outside of emerging markets while investing in places like China and Russia where magazine growth rates can be 30 percent, he said.

It means that although men's magazines can and do still make money, publishers also have to decide if they should sell assets or reposition themselves in digital media by building websites that primarily focus on content such as fishing, golf and cars.

D'Hinnin said Lagardere was currently considering such options within declining segments of the male-focused magazine market—such as those with scantily clad women.

YouTube victim

"We think it was killed by YouTube where you can find this and joke-based content for teenagers and college boys for free," he added.

YouTube is the online video unit of Google Inc. operating in a market with other Web video services such as Dailymotion.

"On the Internet it is easier to get more fun and (young men) spend so much time with YouTube or Dailymotion they don't buy magazines any more," D'Hinnin said. *Reuters*

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10 units	LN2 Tanks (Mother)	600,000.00	
		Php 4,338,000.00	GMA-Livestock Funds

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and award of Contracts shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The tenderers shall be required to submit until **17 December 2007**, the following documents for pre-qualification:

1) Certified list of related contracts ongoing and completed for the past five (5) years including quantity and specifications, name of client with telephone numbers, date of contract and project cost.
2) Articles of Incorporation or Partnership
3) Audited Financial Statement for the current and previous year or two of the most recent years, whichever is applicable
4) Tax clearance from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (per EO 398 dated January 12, 2005) including Taxpayer's Identification Number or in the case of foreign bidders, their equivalent, duly authenticated by the respective Philippine Consulate
5) Business license/registration
6) Authority of the Representative, if any
7) Company profile

Distribution of Tender Documents for the Supply and Delivery of Semen and Breeding Supplies may be obtained from the NDA-BAC Secretariat on **21 November 2007** upon payment of **Php 2,500.00 per copy**. A **Pre-Bid Conference** shall be conducted on **03 December 2007, 1:30 p.m.** and the **Opening of Bids** shall be held on **17 December 2007, 1:30 p.m.** at the NDA Building, 2/F Shaheni-Acosta Conference Room, BAI Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City. The Bidder must present a bid bond during the bid opening date which is equivalent to 1-2.5% of the ABC in the form of cash, manager's/cashier's checks, bank guarantee, or surety bond.

Sealed bids in triplicate shall be received on or before the opening date and time by the NDA-BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, NDA Bldg., BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

NDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts hereof, to waive any information therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to NDA.

(Sgd.) RENE M. DE GUZMAN
BAC-Chairman
14 November 2007

(PDI – November 17, 2007)

CAGELCO II

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  2. Substation
    a. Current Transformers, Insulating Class 69 KV
    b. CT Rated Power Quality Meters
III. 5% REINVESTMENT PROJECTS: Rehab/Revamp Upgrading Along Distribution Lines
  1. Wires, construction hardwares, compression connectors, insulators
  2 Fault Indicators
IV. METER FIX
  1. CT Rated Kwh Meters
  2. Duplex Wires

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:
1. Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)
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  c. Business Permit
  d. BIR/VAT Certificate
  e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
  f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years
  g. Financial Statement
  h. Compliance with the must technical specifications
2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirements – December 01, 2007.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI – November 16 & 17, 2007)

RP-Spain pact may benefit rapist

RAPE CONVICT Francisco Juan "Paco" Larrañaga, a Filipino-Spanish national, could be the first to avail of the proposed Philippine-Spain treaty on the transfer of sentenced prisoners being heard at the Senate.

"[Larrañaga] will be the most celebrated beneficiary of the treaty because he is a dual citizen," said Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, head of the committee on foreign affairs, in an interview after the public hearing on the treaty yesterday.

Santiago said that if the Supreme Court finally rejects Larrañaga's appeal to reverse the lower court ruling on his rape case, "he can request that he be jailed in Spain or the Spanish government can make the request provided he consents."

Larrañaga was convicted in 2004 of the kidnap-rape slay of Marijoy and Jacqueline Chiong in Cebu City. There are currently 7 out of the 50,000 Filipinos in Spain who are in detention or house arrest or facing court cases ranging from homicide to drug trafficking to assault.

The treaty aims to bring back foreign prisoners into their country of nationality to serve their sentences and enable them to be rehabilitated and integrated closer to their family and friends.

After yesterday's public hearing, Santiago said she would sponsor the bill on the Senate floor on Monday she said she hoped that it would be approved for the third reading after three days.

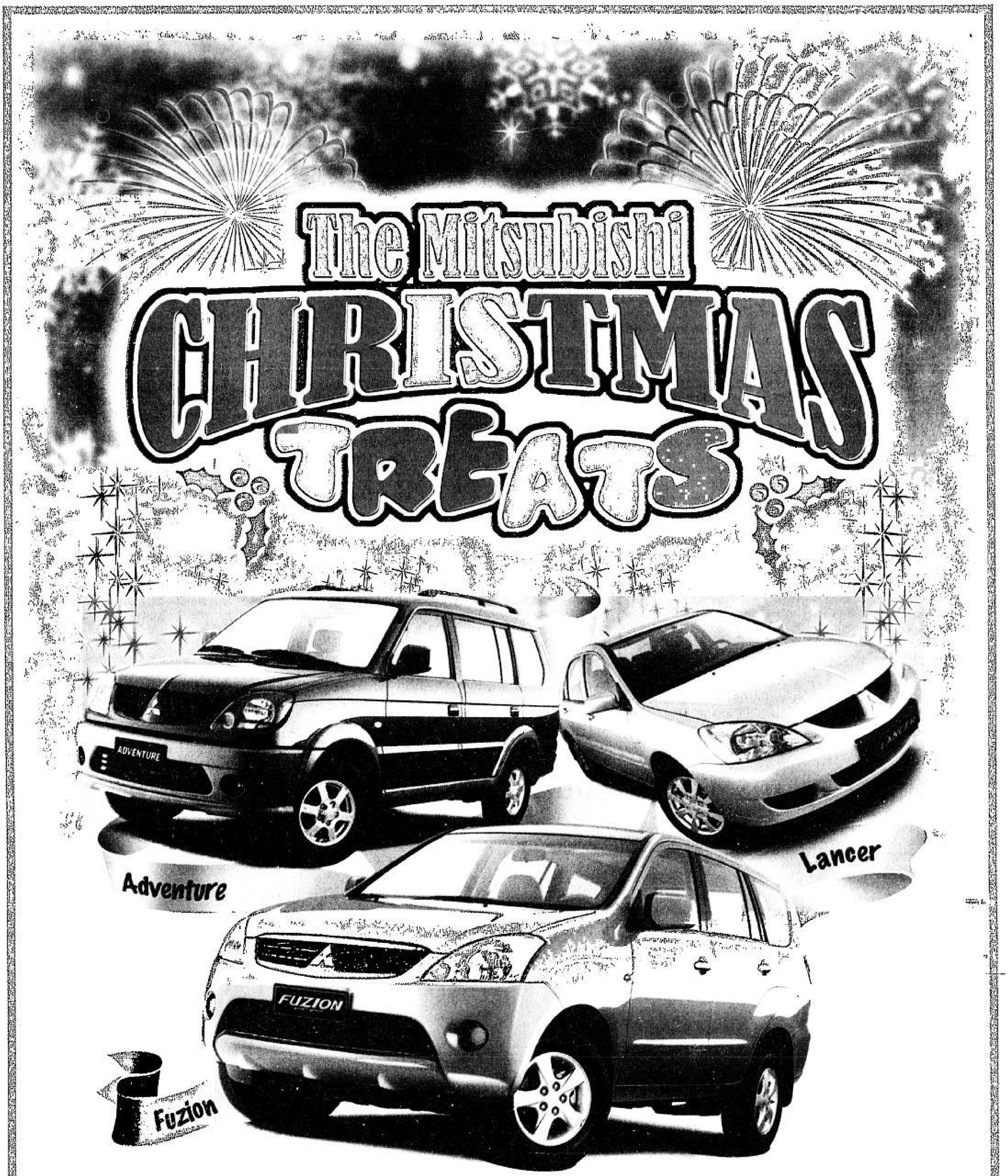
Santiago said that the family of the rape victims might oppose the transfer because "they may want (Larrañaga) to serve his sentence here or the public will feel that the victim's family will be disadvantaged if he is imprisoned in Spain."

Santiago said the country has this transfer treaty with Hong Kong and Thailand and she hoped to adopt the same pacts with other countries especially in the Middle East in view of the millions of Filipinos working overseas.

"They (Filipino prisoners abroad) are virtually incommunicado as prisoners because they have no relatives to visit them," said Santiago who was also batting to include a P5 million budgetary allocation for the treaty which would be used to pay for the travel costs of bringing back the Filipino convicts.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, the Public Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Corrections and the Department of Justice have all endorsed the treaty.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.



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Solved but not closed, say police

From page A1

"We are taking those things into consideration ... However, that is not enough basis to conduct an investigation on former Congressman Salapuddin," Razon said.

Akbar was among four people killed in Tuesday's bombing at the Batasan, in which 11 others were wounded. Police have said they believe Akbar was the target of the blast.

Strong link to Batasan bombing

Razon added that investigators are "gathering additional facts and evidence" to warrant inviting Salapuddin to give a statement on the case.

"We still have to await the development of the investigation," he said.

At the press conference, police showed reporters items recovered from the Payatas raid. They included documents for a Honda XRM motorcycle, various tools, nine cell phones, pictures, ID cards, ATM cards, driver's licenses, a motorcycle helmet and various calling cards.

Three of the calling cards were from the congressional office of Salapuddin, and an envelope with the letterhead of Salapuddin's congressional office.

"(What we have) is just an association (based on the admission of Salapuddin). That is not a ground. We need to have more," Razon said.

Razon said the raid on Anahaw Street, Violago Homes in Payatas, was a break in the investigation into the blast and established a strong link between the explosion and three suspects killed in Payatas and three others arrested in the raid.

Suspects recognized

"The Payatas operation is a major breakthrough in the case ... based on the physical evidence we've gathered," Razon said.

He said the deed of sale on a motorcycle believed to have been used to deliver the bomb that exploded in Congress carried a chassis number XRM 13-066-203-339.

Razon said the numbers 066203339 appears in the bar code recovered from the damaged motorcycle.

A security guard at the House also positively identified Ikram Indama, one of the suspects now in custody, as having entered the south wing compound of the Batasan hours before the explosion, said Razon.

He added the security guard also recognized the helmet recovered in Payatas.

Razon said investigators were looking at all possible angles and working double time in their questioning of the three suspects since police could only legally hold them for 36 hours unless cases were filed against them.

According to the motorcycle's deed of sale, the vehicle was bought by Adham Kusain, of 52 Almaciga St., Northview II, Batasan Hills, Quezon City. The motorcycle was sold by a certain Ahmad Alih of 130-D Sinagtala, Batasan Hills.

AKBAR: Who did it?

SALAPUDDIN: Not suspect

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said the suspects could be charged before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court separately for the Batasan blast and for resisting arrest.

Not planted

Razon defended the PNP from accusations that the evidence which police said they found were planted.

"Your police are working and doing their job despite the hardships, like lack of sleep. Our men are risking their lives regardless of the criticism of those who are not satisfied with the work they do," Razon said.

Police said the Payatas shootout occurred while a combined team from the Armed Forces and the PNP was trying to serve a warrant of arrest against a certain Pakir Said, alias Abu Jandal, supposedly a member of the Abu Sayyaf.

Jandal and two other suspects—identified by the police as Redwan Indama and his wife Saing—were killed while purportedly resisting arrest.

Suspect ex-solon's driver

Razon said the raid was staged based on a tip on the presence of wanted persons in the area.

Salapuddin, a former three-term representative of Basilan, said that one of the suspects—Ikram Indama, from whom police said they recovered a House ID—was indeed his personal driver.

"I'm willing to show up to help untangle the puzzle," Salapuddin said in a telephone interview.

He said the people he knew among the suspects killed or arrested were hardly the type who would be members of the Abu Sayyaf Group.

Salapuddin, a former commander of the Moro National Liberation Front, also admitted knowing suspects Khaider Awnal and Adham Kusain.

He said he also knew Redwan Indama, whom he identified as a former MNLF leader, and his wife Saing.

"(Ikram) was my driver for more or less three years. He was a former taxi driver who also worked as a family driver," Salapuddin said of Ikram.

"As far as I know, he was never an Abu Sayyaf," he added. "When my term ended, he decided to look for another job."

Salapuddin said, however, that Ikram had relatives who were Abu Sayyaf members.

Other suspects

He said that Awnal was a former brother-in-law of his, explaining that Awnal's sister and he had divorced.

"What I know is that he was looking for a vehicle to buy. They are engaged in vehicles that they use for public transport," Salapuddin said.

Kusain is reportedly a student Salapuddin helped to gain employment in Metro Manila.

"He works as a pushcart boy at the Naia," Salapuddin said.

"I would never imagine that anyone of them would be Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Salapuddin said Redwan Indama was his driver's uncle and was a former leader of the Moro National Liberation Front.

"As a former MNLF leader myself, I know him and his wife Saing," he said.

Salapuddin denied knowing Said or Jandal.

"It cannot be denied that we are political rivals, but we were also political allies," Salapuddin said of Akbar.

Salapuddin said he and Akbar ran under the same slate in Basilan in the 2004 elections.

In the last elections, Salapuddin ran and lost to Akbar's wife Jum in the Basilan gubernatorial elections.

"The only time we parted ways was when he started fielding his own relatives and I had an avowed advocacy against political dynasties," Salapuddin said.

Why link me?

Anak Mindanao party-list Rep. Mujiv Hataman, another congressman who had political disagreements with Akbar, said one of those who were killed—Redwan Indama—in the raid was his distant relative.

Redwan was not an Abu Sayyaf bandit but a former councilor of Tipo-Tipo, Basilan.

Hataman said he could not understand why it appeared that he was also being dragged into the case.

Speaker Jose de Venecia welcomed the police raid in Payatas.

"The reward money put up by (President Macapagal-Arroyo) and members of the House has led to the spectacular breakthrough in the Batasan bombing investigation," De Venecia said. *With a report from Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

'Papa, Mama inseparable but could not be together for one final glimpse'

From page A1

the St. Scholastica's College Chapel in Manila, Rebo Saguisag, 35, spoke of how he had to make the difficult decision of burying his mother while his father lay in the intensive care unit of the Makati Medical Center.

His voice cracking, Rebo said: "Mama and Papa are one. Papa is what he is largely because of Mama. Indeed, behind every great man is a woman...

"I also regret the fact that my father could not join us here today. Imagine what the rest of the family had to go through, preparing for my mother's burial while thinking of Papa's health. And as Chito [Quintans] said, we received news that the [breathing] tube has finally been removed. *(See related story on Page A1.)* But not in time for him to join us here...

"The hardest part for me was to make a decision, that at this very moment, Rene and Dulce, Papa and Mama, inseparable for more than 40 years, could not even be together for one second, for one final glimpse."

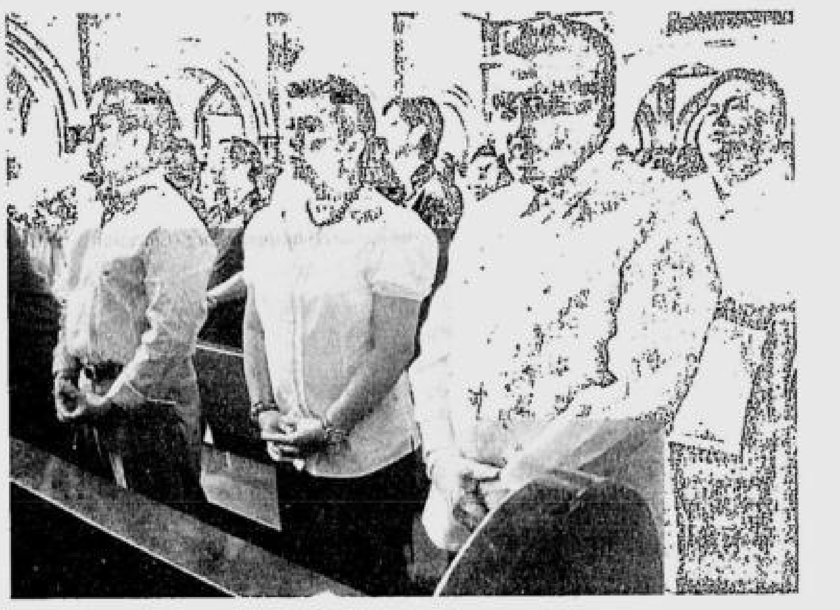
By his side

According to his brother Idas, Rene Saguisag, then a cash-strapped student in the United States, could not attend their parents' respective funerals in the Philippines. It was Dulce who stayed by his side.

"Because of financial difficulties, Rene could not fly home. He never set eyes on our parents again. There was no videotape then. During those two sorrowful occasions, only Dulce shared in his grief," Idas said.

Rebo said an "ever-loving wife" was how Rene, a busy lawyer and activist, referred to Dulce because he was grateful to her for making up for his shortcomings as a father.

FINAL FAREWELL from those who will always love her best. REM ZAMORA



MOURNERS at the funeral Mass include Ex-President Joseph Estrada, Gina de Venecia and Vice President Noli de Castro. Behind Estrada is son, JV Ejercito, San Juan mayor. REM ZAMORA

What he lacked, she filled, even financially, the son said:

"During our school days, she always made sure that we stayed away from what she always referred to as 'bad company.' In 1987, she even took the role of breadwinner when Papa joined the Senate with a take-home pay of P14,000. But despite all these roles, she always maintained her thoughtfulness and sweetness."

Himself a lawyer, Rebo said it was "very difficult to be standing here in front of you and give tribute to our Mama while we think of her other half who is fighting to get better as I speak."

"We understand, of course, that this is supposed to be for Mama, but it is impossible to mention Dulce without Rene, to talk of Mama without Papa. Such is their partnership—unique as it is, because as you all know, we always had to share our father with our motherland," he said.

And even in her passing, Dulce gave everything, including her last breath, to Rene.

"The way she said goodbye practically sums it all up. In her lifetime she always absorbed the pain and troubles and all negative energies, so that Papa could be what he is. And in their final moment together, my Mama died ... so my Papa could live," Rebo said at the end of his speech that had nearly everyone in tears.

Ultimate love team

Although Dulce did grouse every now and then about Rene, she "adored" him, according to her sister Alma Kern.

"She would complain of his being *kulit* (stubborn), because he brought piles of papers into their bedroom. But she protected him with a fierce loyalty," Kern said in her eulogy.

Indeed, theirs was a romantic story that would have been a hit *telenovela* (TV series) said Dulce's cousin Lourdes Maramba Fajardo.

"With all the media coverage she had become a superstar, and Dulce and Rene had become the ultimate love team," Fajardo said.

But the love team was ended abruptly by the accident on Nov. 8 that claimed Dulce's life.

It is a mishap that the family still tries to grapple with, admitted Rebo:

"As I stand here before you, I ask, Why do bad things happen to good people? It is so unfair. But I take comfort that Mama is already with someone up there, and they continue to watch over us. I somehow take joy in the fact that the last thing she did was something she really loved, and with someone she loved the most," he said.

Rebo lamented that his mother would not be part of his wedding (which had earlier been scheduled in December), nor would she be able to experience being a grandmother.

"My only regret is that she will never be part, at least physically, of my planned wedding with my fiancee Jackie. Neither would she be able to hold a grandchild in her arms, something that she so richly deserved," he said.

He expressed gratitude to his and his siblings' "extended families"—the Quintanses and Marambas—their other relatives and friends, and to St. Scholastica's College and San Beda College, and asked for their "continued prayers for us to cope as a family."

Cancer survivor

The bagpiper played a funeral march as the hearse arrived at the Manila Memorial Park at 12:25 p.m.

Thick clouds momentarily blotted out the sun and white balloons bearing a message of love were released to the gloomy skies as Dulce Saguisag, a former social welfare secretary, was laid to rest.

Her casket was draped with the Philippine flag and showered with flower petals.

"She prepared the tomb for herself 10 years ago, when she still had [breast] cancer. But she survived. She was given a clean bill of health," said Joey Bernad, a relative of Dulce's who had helped arrange her funeral.

In prayer, the gathering of some 300 mourners said: "We thank you, Dulce, for blessing us with your life. We ask you, Dulce, to forgive us for whatever shortcomings we may have done against you.

"We release you from all the obligations in this world."

Per the family's request, members of the media had been restricted to a designated area. But cameramen and photographers offended some of the mourners when cameras continued running.

Life of the party

Dulce's family lingered at the grave site until her tomb was sealed.

The woman whom relatives described as the life of the party and the perfect "emcee," and whom her eldest son disclosed was nicknamed "Consuelo" (comfort) was truly gone.

"She really was there for us," Rebo said, adding:

"She always believed in us. She always believed we were bigger than we actually were. She demanded that we make time for family, and that meant all the parties and reunions you can think of ... She was almost always in the middle of things with her boundless energy and enthusiasm."

Said her sister Alma Kern: "She was the most colorful person I've ever known...

"I already miss [her]. Knowing Dulce, she would find funny stories about her own wake, but that will have to wait till we meet again."

Rene asked doctors to let him attend his wife's burial

From page A1

Nubla said all five of Saguisag's children visited their father early in the morning before the funeral. At that time, he still had a breathing tube running through his mouth and down his throat, and could communicate only through body signals or written notes.

"He asked if he could go with them," Nubla said.

When his doctors refused permission, Saguisag accepted it calmly. "He's very reasonable," Nubla said. "He did not insist."

Asked about the patient's disposition, Alvarez said: "If he was emotionally affected, he was hiding it excellently."

Breathing on his own

The doctors took Saguisag off the respirator later in the morning, and he started breathing on his own again.

"He can talk now but his throat is sore, so his voice is very soft," Alvarez said.

"He is resting comfortably and seems to experience less intense episodes of pain at this time," according to the medical bulletin.

A tube remains attached to Saguisag's chest to drain the fluids accumulating there.

"Repeat chest X-Ray studies showed improvement in his chest congestion," the bulletin said.

Alvarez said the chest tube could be removed in two days. He expressed the hope that Saguisag could be moved from the intensive care unit to a regular room "early next week."

By then, it would have been almost two weeks since a dump truck slammed into the family van driven by Felipe Calvario and carrying Rene and Dulce Saguisag and their longtime dance instructor Rhea Obong. It was past 1 a.m., and the couple were on their way home from a night of dancing.

Despite the quick arrival of a rescue team at the site—the intersection of Arnaiz Street and Osmeña Highway in Makati City—Dulce Saguisag was pronounced dead on arrival at the Ospital ng Makati.

Stable but...

Obong, who was seated beside Calvario, was treated for minor injuries.

As for Calvario, he still needs the breathing tube because the doctors have to make sure he is breathing well, Nubla said.

Calvario's condition is stable but unlike Saguisag, "he does not communicate actively yet," Alvarez said.

"He obeys [instruction from his doctors] but his actions are not consistent. Sometimes he'll do it, sometimes he seems to be doing it, then stops," Alvarez said.

Cops quiz pa, brothers for Mariannet's rape

DAVAO CITY—THE FATHER AND TWO brothers of suicide Mariannet Amper were formally questioned by police investigators yesterday following the results of an autopsy that indicated the 12-year-old may have been a victim of rape.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said the results of the autopsy confirmed the theory that the girl was rape and this could have caused her to commit suicide, contrary to earlier claims that she killed herself because of poverty.

Supt. Matthew Baccay, Talomo District police chief, said Mariannet's two brothers appeared "normal" during the interrogation.

"They were consistent about their whereabouts that day [when Mariannet died]," he said.

But Isabelo, the girl's father, appeared to be "defensive and evasive" when asked about the results of the autopsy, he said.

"It appeared that he had knowledge of it. When he was confronted with fact, he had this kind of reaction that I consider defensive … a manifestation that somehow, he had known about the abuse," Baccay said.

Mariannet was found dead, apparently from hanging, in the family home in Barangay Ma-a last Nov. 2. She was buried on Nov. 10.

According to the INQUIRER report on the suicide, an unsent letter that Mariannet had written to the "Wish Ko Lang" TV program and the contents of her diary indicated that "she had lost hope that her family would ever rise from poverty."

The family agreed to an autopsy as speculations rose about the real cause of Mariannet's suicide.

The autopsy, conducted by Dr. Tomas Dimaandal, medico legal officer of the scene of crime operation (Soco) in Southern Mindanao, revealed lacerations in Mariannet's genitals. It also found that the ligature around her neck was "self-inflicted."

Baccay said it did not necessarily mean that Isabelo had raped his daughter, although he is now considered a suspect, along with the girl's two older brothers.

He said the police wanted Isabelo and the brothers to undergo drug testing.

"It will be very essential because no one in his good state of mind will ever do such an act to a little girl. Anyone of them found to be positive to drug usage will be automatically placed at the top of the list of suspects … prime suspects," Baccay said.

Baccay said police investigators went to the Amper family home to gather more information. *Jeffrey Tupas and Germelina Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao, with Jerome Aning, Metro Manila*

GMA, Noli appeal for maid's life in Kuwait

PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo, Vice President Noli de Castro and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo have sought executive clemency for a Filipino domestic helper in Kuwait as the Kuwaiti Supreme Court starts hearing her appeal of the lower court's decision which sentenced her to death by hanging for killing her employer.

Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Ricardo Endaya said in his report to the Department of Foreign Affairs that all three Philippine leaders had made representations with the Kuwaiti ruler to grant Marilou Ranario clemency.

Ranario lost the case in the Kuwaiti Court of Appeals. Her employer's family, however, had refused to accept her blood money in exchange for her life.

The 33-year-old teacher from Tubod, Surigao del Sur went to Kuwait on Dec. 10, 2003 to work as a domestic helper. While there, she had complained of repeated maltreatment from her employer, prompting her to kill him on Jan. 11, 2005.

Ranario is among the 35 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) presently on death row in foreign countries, including one in Brunei, two in China, one in the US, four in Kuwait, nine in Saudi Arabia and 10 in Malaysia.

Endaya said that Kuwait's highest court, the 11-member Court of Cassation, heard oral arguments on the Ranario case last Nov. 13.

At that hearing, two highly respected Kuwaiti defense lawyers, Ahmad Qurban and Abdel Majid Khuraibet, argued Ranario's case at the instance of the Philippine government. *Cynthia Balana*

R. Cruz; 71

REYNALDO D. Cruz, who worked with the sales staff of Colgate-Palmolive and CFC, will be interred today at the Cabanatuan Public Cemetery in Nueva Ecija.

He died Nov. 13 at age 71.

His remains lay in state at the residence of his brother, Rolando Cruz, in Poblacion, Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija.

He was active in Bliss community undertakings in Pasig, Metro Manila where he once lived.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 17, 2007
32nd Week in Ordinary Time
Elizabeth of Hungary

1st Reading: **Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9**
Gospel: **Luke 18:1-8**

Jesus told them a parable to show them that they should pray continually and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor people. In the same town was a widow who kept coming to him, saying: 'Defend my rights against my opponent.' For a time he refused, but finally he thought: 'Even though I neither fear God nor care about people, this widow bothers me so much I will see that she gets justice; then she will stop coming and wearing me out."

And Jesus explained, "Listen to what the evil judge says. Will God not do justice for his chosen ones who cry to him day and night even if he delays in answering them? I tell you, he will speedily do them justice. Yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Commentary

God's Word has bounded down from the heavens in the stillness of night and this Word is a sharp sword that brings death and new life, either decreeing freedom and life and awe before God, or death for those who stand against God's will. This is what happened at the Red Sea and, we believe, this has happened in the Word become flesh among us in Jesus the Lord. We are to pray and reflect upon the Word of the Lord, and let it transform us and call us to account in our own lives. God is the widow, intent on making us do justice, care for the poor, and acknowledge God's will in the world. It has been so since the beginning. But if the Son of Man, the widow who pleads on behalf of her rights and the rights of all those in the world without justice were to come now, would our God find us faithful or would he find us with the unjust judges of the world, only occasionally doing justice because we are afraid of widows, orphans, and the Word of God?

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RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Various FDC Requirements

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2007 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P2,800,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the ***Supply and Delivery of Various FDC Requirements*** as follows:

Project	Autoclave and Accessories	Electric Generator Set and Refrigerant Recovery Machine
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	2,000,000.00	800,000.00
Delivery Period	60 calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award	60 calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award
Cost of Bid Documents	P 2,500.00	P 2,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	November 28, 2007 2:00 p.m.	November 29, 2007 2:00 p.m.
Submission of Bids	December 13, 2007 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.	December 14, 2007 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Opening of Bids	December 13, 2007 2:00 p.m.	December 14, 2007 2:00 p.m.
Venue of Activities	NFA Board Room, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City	NFA Board Room Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City

Bids received in excess of the ABC for each project shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of various IT requirements* as stated above. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders** (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount stated above. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. Prospective bidders who secured the bidding documents for the failed bidding of September 12, 2007 for the Autoclave and Accessories and September 17, 2007 for the Electric Generator Set and Refrigerant Recovery Machine are no longer required to pay anew the non-refundable fee for the bid documents.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity — NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Person — Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama
Address — Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Dilman, Quezon City
Telephone/Fax No, — (632) 455 2758
Mobile Phone — (928) 4102732
e-mail address — vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Website — www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI – November 17, 2007)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the dissolution of HINGE MEDIA, INC. ("Corporation") by amending its articles of incorporation to shorten the corporate term from fifty (50) years from and after the date of incorporation to until 31 December 2005 was approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital stock and majority of the Board of Directors of the Corporation in its joint special meeting held on 29 December 2005.

All persons having a claim against the Corporation are requested to present their claim at the Corporation's principal office at Unit 330 Mile Long Bldg., Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City for immediate settlement.

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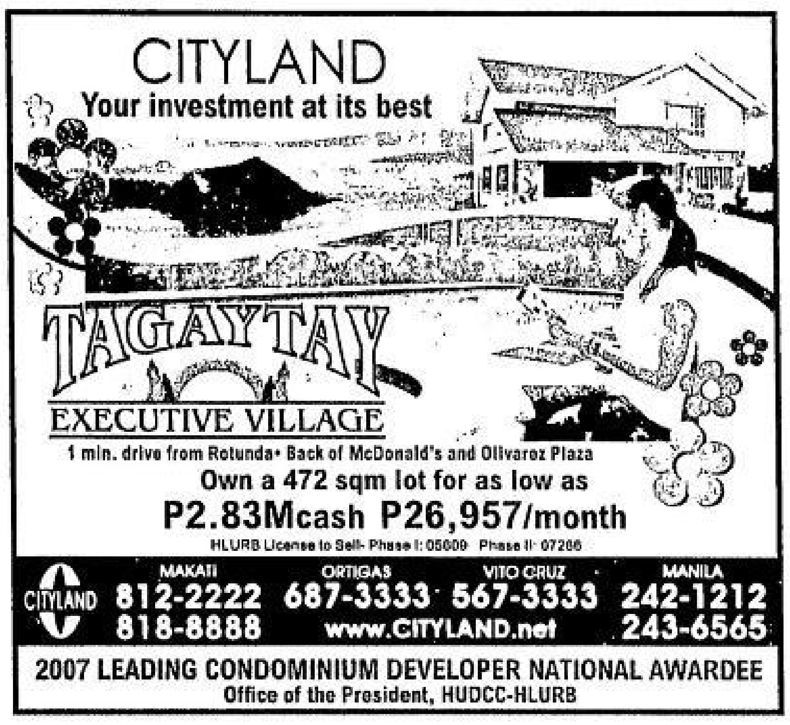

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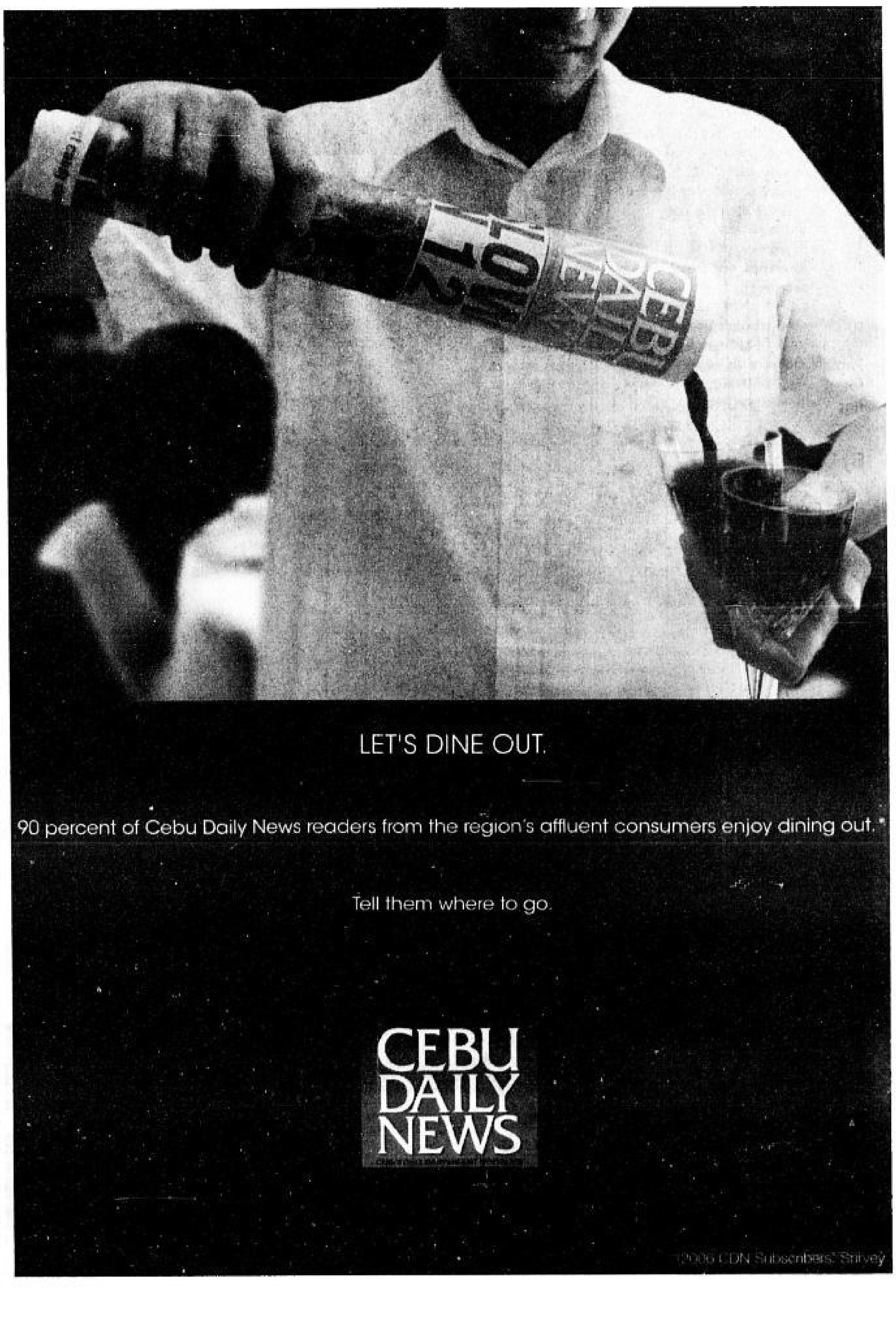

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SC chief bewails silence on killing of journalists

From page A1

exposing corrupt government practices in their provinces, making known illegal activities such as drug trafficking and gambling.

So far, only one case has been resolved, Puno noted. Given the role journalists play in the fight for truth and justice, people responsible for their deaths should be brought to justice—and fast.

"It is chilling to think that the lives of so many brave souls have been reduced to mere statistics. It is even more painful to know that only one of these cases has seen a court's conviction," said Puno in a speech he delivered on Thursday during a conference of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP).

The case Puno was referring to was the murder of investigative journalist Marlene Esperat, whose killers were sentenced to life imprisonment by a Cebu regional trial court in 2006.

"Still, this lone conviction hardly counts as a significant victory, as a great majority of the other cases remains unsolved, the killers still stalking this land of vitriol and violence," he added.

Puno said the killings send a chilling effect to journalists.

PUNO: Translate our creeds into deeds.

"It would be easy to pretend that all these attacks on journalists do not have an impact, [that they] do not stop reporters from pursuing important stories. But, of course, they do ... In countries around the world, the chilling effect is the same," he said.

Chilling effect

He noted that in the Soviet Union, the attacks on members of the media had dampened the coverage of issues like corruption, organized crime, human rights violations and abuse of power.

Puno said the writ of amparo would address the murder of journalists, as well as other cases of extralegal killings and enforced disappearances.

The writ of amparo, issued last month, by the Supreme Court requires respondents—whether government officials, agencies or private individuals—to take action to resolve a grievance and not merely deny the allegation against them.

End to atrocities

"We in the judiciary are as heavily invested in putting an end to these atrocities as you in the media are. We cannot, nor do we wish, to wash our hands of the responsibility of putting an end to extralegal killings, despite how easy it is to lay the blame on another branch of government," Puno stressed.

"We cannot in good conscience use the passive excuse that we are only empowered to decide cases brought to us by the prosecution," he said.

The rules for the writ of amparo, he explained, were a result of the high court's use of its power under the Constitution to promulgate rules to protect constitutional rights.

He noted the successful release of one detained person so far, and hopes that the writ of amparo would lead to less incidences of extralegal killings and enforced disappearances. *(Related story on Page A1.)*

Expedient relief

"We now have reason to hope that these extralegal killings and enforced disappearances will dissipate from our landscape. The writ of amparo addresses many of the problems that previously prevented cases of this nature from seeing judicial conclusion, such as lack of witnesses and insufficiency of evidence. But most importantly, it gives expedient relief to those being victimized and prevents the victimization of those being threatened," Puno said.

He added that the media and the judiciary would not need physical weapons to fight those who want to destroy democracy.

The media and the judiciary "also share a common commitment to truth, and in upholding this, they only need conscience, commitment and courage," he said.

Truth is beyond murder

"Let it be known that to discharge the duty of preserving the sanctity of truth, you in the media and we in the judiciary do not need the power of coercion or the power to purchase. We need no more than a clear conscience, no more than an incorruptible commitment, and no more than the courage to translate our creeds into deeds," Puno added.

"Finally, let all remember and let all be warned that the light of truth has never been extinguished, not by any man, not by any might; and that those who try to bury truth succeed only in digging their own graveyards, for truth is eternal—it cannot be extinguished; it is beyond murder," he said.

The Nissan Frontier Navara

SOMEDAY, ALL PICKUPS WILL BE MADE THIS WAY.

It was the middle of this year when Universal Motors Corporation allowed a select few to take a sneak peek at the all-new Nissan Frontier Navara.

Never has the tag "all-new" been more appropriate; and never has the legendary pickup looked so good.

Reworked in a multitude of ways, the Navara is all that ever made the Frontier great. And – as we found out – a hell of a lot more.

BREAKING THE MOLD & RAISING THE BAR.

Call it the Tiger Woods of trucks – for like the celebrated golfer, the Navara is so far ahead of the curve, its arrival on the scene is not just the changing of the guard, it signals a change in the very nature of the game. Indeed, if you think you know all about pickups, think again.

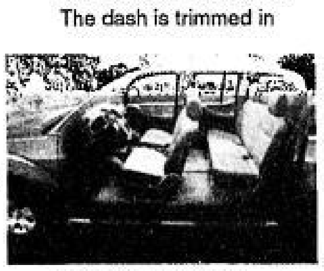
TRUCK OUT BACK, SUV UP FRONT.

For a vehicle meant to do the crude, ugly jobs, the Navara comes with an incredible amount of style and refinement. It is a study in sturdiness and aerodynamics, with flared wheel arches, and crisp, smooth lines.

The new pickup's design theme is a departure from the Frontiers we know. With its integrated overfender and front bumper, imposing grillwork, and hulking stance, the Navara's physique resembles that of its full-sized brother, the Nissan Titan. Sleeker and sexier, it now stands on 16-inch alloy wheels. Front foglamps come standard, as do chrome side mirror housings, and side step tubes.

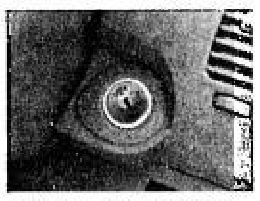
A front independent suspension with coil springs coupled with longer rear leaf springs provide a smoother ride.

Inside, cabin comforts rival those of the best SUVs. The dash is trimmed in handsome beige and a brushed metal-like finish. Seats are clad in beige leather (standard on 4x4 models), and you sit high up in a commanding position, with all controls well within reach. A shift-on-the-fly system allows you to engage 4WD from 2WD with the simple turn of a dial, all without having to stop.



a cabin clad in beige and brushed metal

shift-on-the-fly



illuminated ignition switch

Other conveniences abound, like the illuminated ignition switch (no more fumbling in the dark) and the assortment of bins, holders and cubby-holes for everything from maps to water bottles.

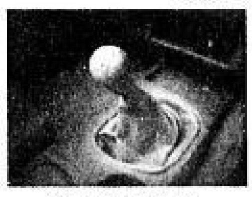
It is enough to prompt critics to call the Navara "the closest thing a truck comes to a proper car."

ladder frame with 8 cross members

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEING FIRST AND ONLY.

Excellence is part of the Navara's pedigree. The Nissan Frontier is the first and only truck line to hold the Number One spot (based on number of units sold) for four consecutive years.

The Navara keeps the Frontier tradition of innovation, once again reinventing the pickup and setting a new benchmark with 6 SPEED MANUAL TRANSMISSION. Unheard of in pickups, the new innovation promises enhanced performance and better fuel efficiency.



six-speed manual transmission

It doesn't end there. When it comes to firsts, Nissan seems to have pulled out all the stops.

Consider these: THE LARGEST FUEL TANK CAPACITY (80L, perfect for long journeys into the rough) and the first to offer standard BRAKE ASSIST for sure footing during stops. The Frontier is also the only pickup to use a LADDER TYPE FRAME WITH 8 CROSS MEMBERS for added rigidity and strength to handle heavy duty cargo, and to limit body roll.

MORE ROOM!

The new Navara is a massive 5,230mm long. Its cockpit area is thus larger, and built to more car-like dimensions, providing a better driving experience and a more comfortable ride for passengers in the rear. Most of the wheelbase increase pushes the rear wheels further backwards, and the payoff is that the Navara has a wider, deeper bed, giving you a larger load area.

MOST POWER!

Hauling all that load is the work of a YD25DDTi 2nd Generation Common Rail Turbo Intercooler Diesel Engine – the most powerful one around – pumping out 174 HORSEPOWER RATING AND 403 Nm OF TORQUE for 4WD, THE MOST IN ITS CLASS. That's more than enough to climb muddy inclines or tow a trailerful of goods. All with minimal emissions and engine vibration.

SAFETY ZONE.

The Navara's construction conforms to Nissan's patented ZONE BODY CONCEPT, with designated crumple zones to absorb the energy of an impact, and a rigid safety zone to shelter occupants from harm.

most powerful engine in its class

The cabin space features 2 SRS FRONT AIRBAGS, side impact beams to guard against broadside crashes, and 3-point front and rear seatbelts. Safeguarding driver control on and off-road, a Limited Slip Differential (standard on 4x4 models) reassigns power to the wheels with greatest traction. ABS prevents wheel lock during sudden stops, and ELECTRONIC BRAKEFORCE DISTRIBUTION balances braking power between the truck's front and rear end – vital help, especially with a fully loaded bed. A 3rd brake lamp provides early warning to following cars.

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THE NEXT FRONTIER FOR PICKUPS.

There is, perhaps, no pickup out there that packs more innovation per square inch than the new Frontier Navara. This here, is one giant leap for truck kind. And as is always the case with pickups of the Frontier lineage, it won't be long before the rest of truckdom follows suit.

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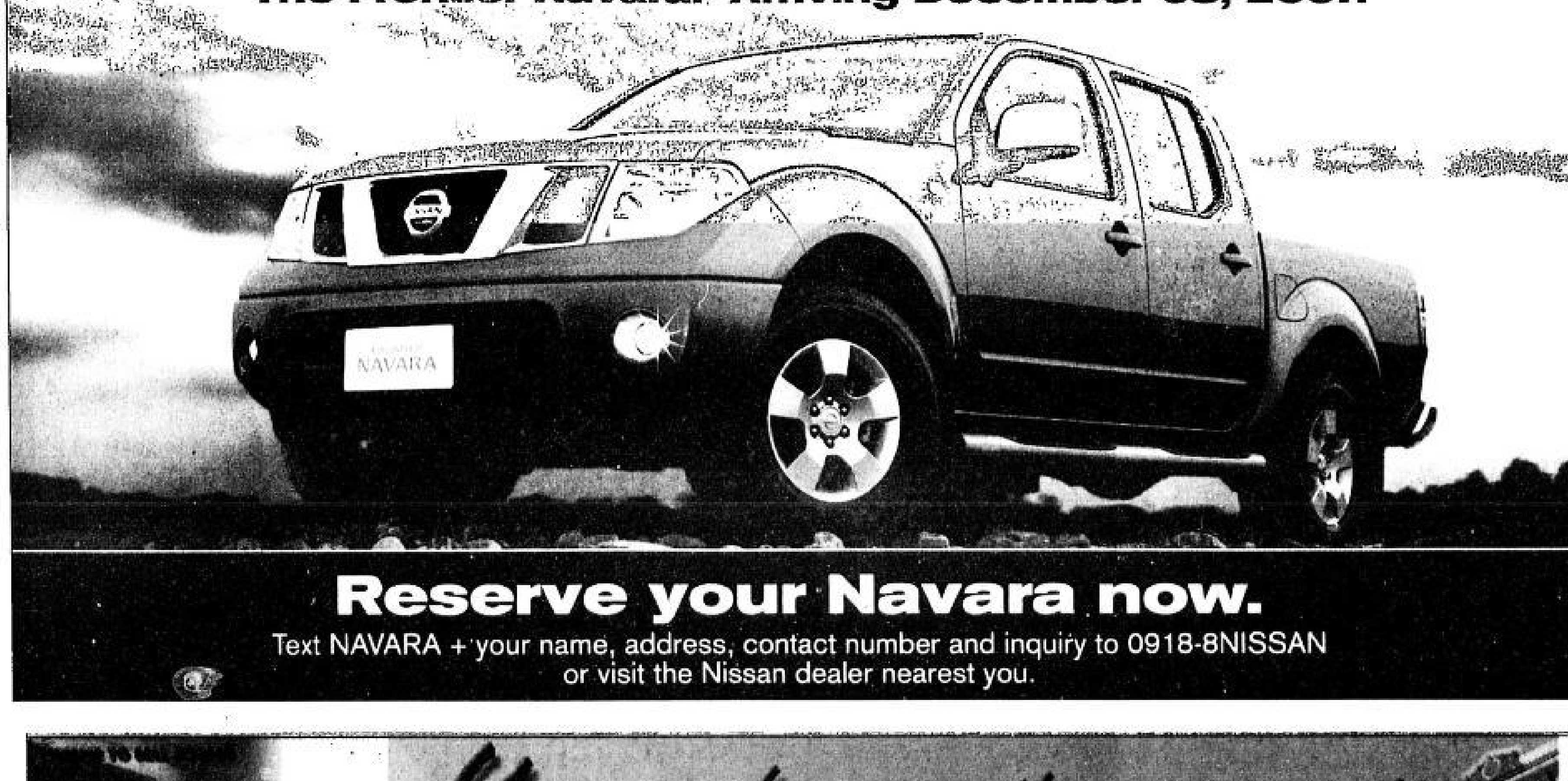
The Frontier Navara. Arriving December 03, 2007.



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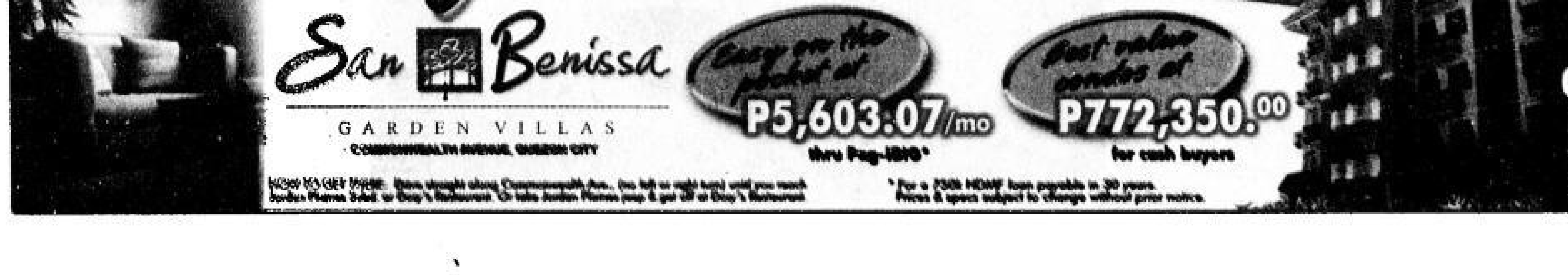

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After 3 years, justice still eludes Luisita victims

By Jerome Aning

THREE YEARS AFTER THE MASSACRE OF seven workers during a dispersal of a rally at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac, justice remains elusive to the fallen farm workers and their families.

"Will justice to the victims of Glorietta and Batasan bombings be as elusive as to the fallen farm workers of Hacienda Luisita and their families?

The militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno raised this question as it led the commemoration yesterday of the massacre with a rally at the Bonifacio Shrine in Manila, coinciding with the group's self-declared International Day of Action Against Trade Union Repression in the Philippines.

KMU chair Elmer Labog scored the Arroyo administration for its failure to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of the massacre.

"Three years have passed and no one from the military and police forces who conducted the violent dispersal in the picket lines of the farm workers which resulted to the massacre were prosecuted and punished," he said.

Even the International Labor Organization (ILO), which received a complaint about the carnage, found out that excessive force was used against the strikers and their supporters, Labog recalled.

The ILO had asked the Philippine government "to identify and punish those responsible without further delay" and requested the Arroyo administration "to give adequate instructions to the law enforcement authorities so as to eliminate the danger entailed by the use of excessive violence when controlling demonstrations."

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Erratum

In the Announcement Advertisement of the Office of the President of the Philippines that appeared on page A6 of the Inquirer's November 16, 2007 issue, the 3rd and 4th paragraphs should have read:

"Applications and nominations must be submitted **not later than 26 November 2007** to the undersigned, 10th Floor, Presidential Management Staff Building, Arlegui St., Manila.

Manila, 16 November 2007."

Our apologies for the error.

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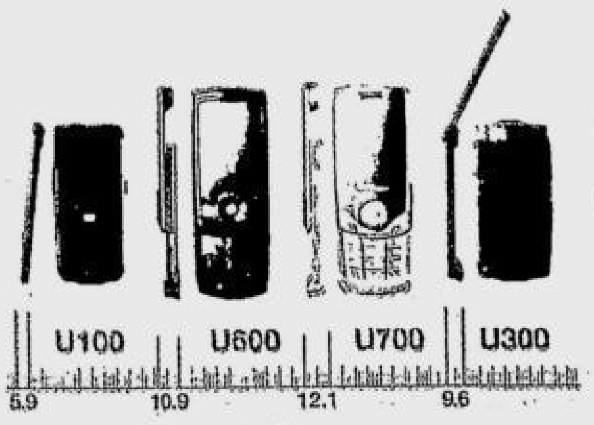

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OPINION

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Failure of command

EDITORIAL

JUSTICE, THE DAVIDE COMMISSION SAID, IN ITS inquiry on past coups, is the pressing need of our society. People can endure many things, including poverty and its accompanying hunger and disease. But there comes a time when injustice becomes so intolerable it provokes people to take justice into their own hands. Injustice is the fertilizer of rebellion.

On Nov. 9, Army Scout Rangers and Philippine Marines officers walked out of a hearing being conducted by a court martial. The basis of the walkout was a document. A document, called the pre-trial advice (PTA), is supposed to be the basis of charges for which a court martial is convened to try enlisted men and officers accused of violating the Articles of War. This PTA would be the linchpin document around which the court martial of Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda and 27 others would revolve; with it, the court martial could proceed to try them for their withdrawal of support from President Macapagal-Arroyo in February 2006.

The wrangling between the prosecution and defense brought up a long-standing contention of the defense: the PTA, to this day, remains unsigned by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. One of the defense lawyers, Alex Avisado, suggested why this was so. He said the PTA, which was submitted by Col. Pedro Davila, staff judge advocate, actually recommended the disapproval of the pretrial investigation report (PTIR) that was prepared by the team headed by Col. Al Perreras. Davila also recommended the dismissal of the mutiny charges and the filing, instead, of the lesser charge of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman."

The court martial pointed to a Nov. 17, 2006 memorandum that referred to both the PTIR and the PTA, and said the memorandum provided sufficient basis for the court martial to be constituted. The defense objected, but the court turned down a motion for reconsideration. Civilian lawyers for the defense then refused to participate in the proceedings any further, until a signed PTA could be produced. Meanwhile, the court martial declared itself legitimately convened, but unable to continue with the trial in the absence of civilian lawyers who had walked out, it tried to appoint Maj. Basilio Pooten as counsel for the defense. Pooten declined. The accused, he said, have a right to a counsel of their own choosing.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has its own system of military justice and its code of conduct, the Articles of War, which governs what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior on the part of members of the military. The limitations on military behavior, no civilian can fully comprehend. Notions of honor and accountability are, theoretically, more fully ingrained in the military than among their freewheeling civilian counterparts.

Soldiers trained to face enemy bullets are therefore expected to face head-on a court composed of their peers that is convened to try them on charges of violating their military code. The soldiers, whose lawyers walked out of the court martial, themselves walked out of the proceedings on a point of military law. Whether the walkout indicates a truly mutinous bent or is a justifiable demonstration of outrage over the AFP chief's lack of courage to sign the PTA in which the charges, he was advised, are too severe, will naturally be debated.

What is beyond debate is that had Esperon signed the document in question, there would be no doubt about the legitimacy of a court martial, which the soldiers were willing to face. These aren't officers who did a Gringo Honasan. They marched into captivity and willingly faced the prospects of a court martial. But why hasn't Esperon dignified the charges with his autograph? As a result, he has in his hands a court martial convened under his authority, but which now finds itself impotent to impose its authority.

This is a failure of command, and only serves to further divide an already divided Armed Forces. Esperon must move fast to restore the credibility of the institutions of military justice.

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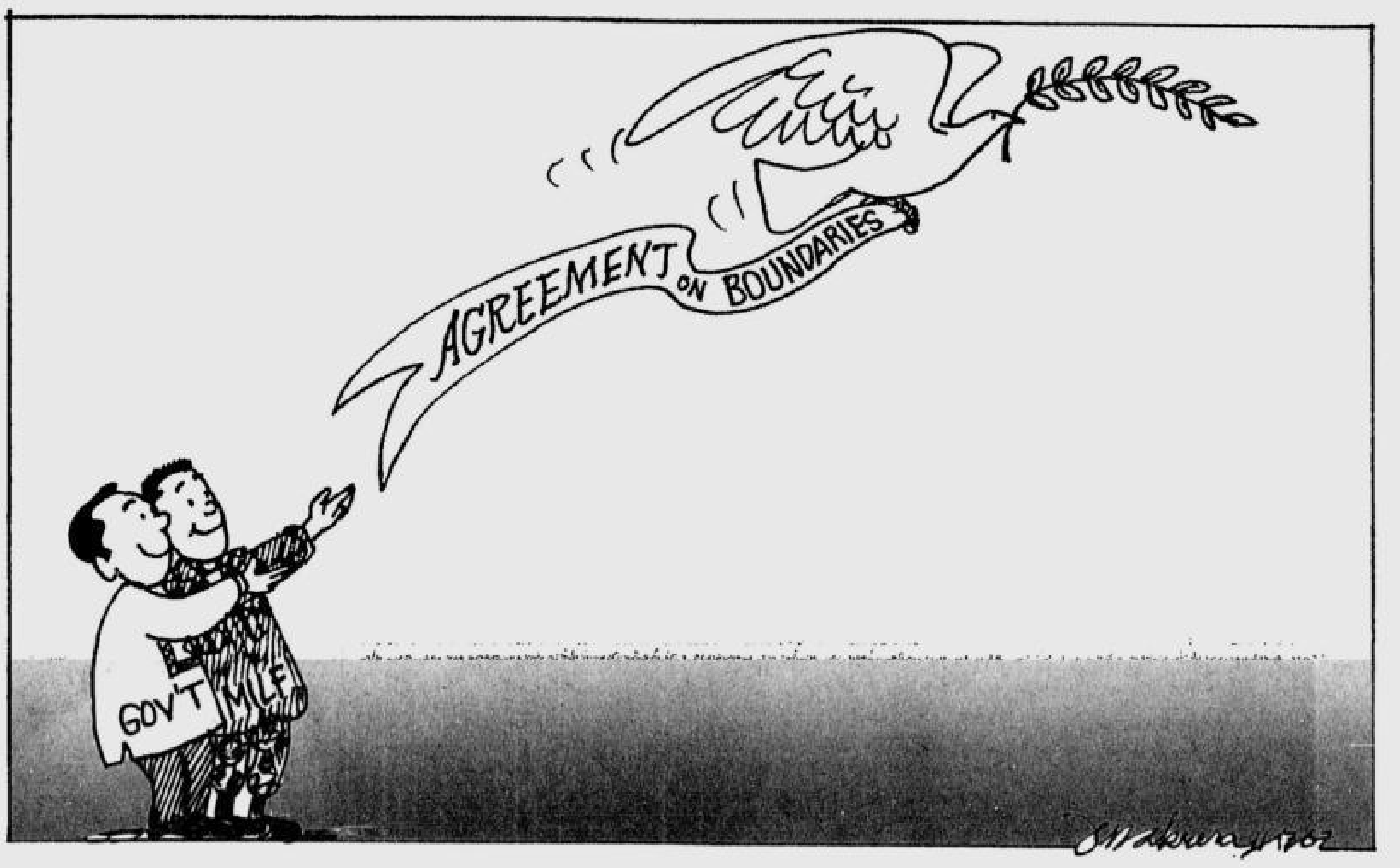

The crisis of cash politics

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE RECENT EXPOSÉ OF THE DISTRIBUTION of cash bundles in the presidential palace at the end of a day-long meeting with legislators and local government executives casts new light on the evolving nature of Philippine politics. In the early years of the nation's politics, the top officials of the land commanded enough awe and respect to be able to whip their followers into line without having to purchase their loyalty. This was when moral ascendancy was a key ingredient of political legitimacy, and moral power was assiduously protected against erosion. So much has changed in the succeeding years.

The concern with one's honor, integrity and trustworthiness, which characterized the behavior of our early politicians, has been replaced by an almost exclusive fixation with political capital—party machinery, funds, media popularity and political networks. A distrust rating of 46 percent, Pulse Asia's most recent finding for President Macapagal-Arroyo would have compelled a Roxas, a Quirino, a Magsaysay or a Garcia to consider stepping down from the presidency. For trust, more than solid performance, lies at the heart of the Filipino public's valuation of their political leaders. When this is low, nothing that a president reports about the state of the country merits any attention.

The fact that Ms Arroyo has seen it fit not to say anything at all about the *payola* scandal at her doorstep shows the level to which honor, as a value, has sunk in the present political system. From a moral standpoint, this is indeed cause for despair. But, looking at it objectively, the cash distribution at Malacañang provides interesting signs of the transition that the political system is undergoing. The system appears hopelessly trapped in its own paradox, unable to manage the problems it has brought upon itself.

The resources at the disposal of any leader, writes the sociologist Amitai Etzioni, consist basically of three types: normative, remunerative and coercive. Of these three, the most favored and the most effective is normative power. Normative power generates moral or dutiful compliance. Remunerative power, in contrast, only breeds calculative compliance. On the other hand, coercive power brings out alienated or resentful compliance. Wise leaders basically rely on normative power, resorting to remuneration and coercion only sparingly. But the more illegitimate a leader is perceived to be, the more that leader would be inclined to depend heavily on remuneration and coercion to maintain power. That kind of power, by its nature, is short-lived.

If Ms Arroyo were confident about her grip on the presidency, it is doubtful if she would deploy the kind of powers she has lately been using. Why would she dole out cash to political allies who profess to be on her side? She might grant favors, but she would not want to appear as if she was literally buying political support—unless she is still fighting for survival and is fast running out of options.

Because of this, it is hard to imagine how Ms Arroyo's regime can avoid the fate of the despised Marcos regime. If it is lucky to survive until 2010, it will most likely remain the object of so much scorn that anyone it anoints as successor will not be able to proudly wear its coat of arms and expect to win in a fair election. The results of the 2007 senatorial election gave us a foretaste of this.

Still, it is important to bear in mind that while Ms Arroyo is today the most visible symbol of a decadent political system, she is not its sole surviving practitioner. Out there is a whole set of aspiring politicians bent on capturing the presidency, and relying more or less on the same tested resources—cash, charisma and connections. Even the enlightened among them appear unprepared to go against the culture of patronage in which the whole nation is mired.

Where lies the hope then? I believe the most interesting changes are unfolding at the local level. New leaders like Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio are showing the way. He is bent on dismantling the structures of patronage in his home province. And he has done this by simply draining the cash out of the patronage kitty of politicians. When he took over as governor, the first thing he did was to clean up the system of collecting fees from the lahar quarrying operations in the province. The result is dramatic: without raising quarry fees, he collected in three months the equivalent of more than three years of quarry taxes under the preceding administration. In contrast to previous practice, these funds are officially and equitably disbursed among the various municipal and barangay units for specific projects. The channels used are institutional and all expenditures are audited. No one gets a chance to play the role of patron.

But lo and behold—the mayors of the province recently demanded greater control over quarrying, something they were content to forego under previous administrations when they were getting a pittance. The provincial board instantly complied and passed Ordinance No. 176, effectively taking away from the governor the power to supervise the tax collection and transferring it to the mayors and the municipal and provincial associations of quarry operators. It is the old system gasping for life. It will take more than one reformist governor to overturn patronage politics. But the transition is underway, and it cannot be reversed. It is in search of energetic champions, and it is good to look at the profiles of the newly-elected barangay captains to see if there has been an infusion of fresh blood.

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Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Citizens must play their part in tax administration

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE PHILIPPINES, IN THE '80S, WAS VERY often called a Latin American country in Asia, or something to that effect. This was so because it was the only one in Asia that was going through what most of Latin America was experiencing: a debt crisis. But recently I heard that we are being compared to Italy—the similarity being not only that we both have very large informal sectors but mostly this: while our politics sucks (I hasten to point out that Italy has a parliamentary system), we have both managed to do well economically. We're getting up in this world?

If one still has doubts as to how we are doing, one merely has to look at the analyses of multilateral institutions like the World Bank, as well as those of private international financial institutions like Deutsche Bank. These two are forecasting a 6.7 percent growth for this year and a 6.1 to 6.2 percent growth rate for 2008. Apparently, these institutions don't have the same kind of qualms about data fudging and overestimation of growth rates that some local analysts do.

Deutsche Bank describes our economic outlook as continuing broad-based growth underpinned by very strong consumer confidence and remittance flows. More importantly, it acknowledges that the investment outlook is picking up—encouraged presumably by the growth of primary spending (government spending less interest payments) which, at over 30 percent annual rate, would "inject substantial impulse to the economy, **provided the money is being channeled to productive and growth critical areas."** (emphasis mine) Which means, as far as I am concerned, the government had better avoid projects like the National Broadband Network and Cyber Education—given their allegedly inflated costs.

World Bank's remarks are positively glowing (but, of course, one has to take these with a grain of salt; World Bank was also positively glowing about the prospects of South Korea and Thailand just before they collapsed in the late '90s), as it talks about "the highest economic growth achieved by the Philippines in 20 years."

But if Deutsche Bank cautions the government to spend wisely and well, the World Bank reportedly cautions that "The sustained good performance on tax administration remains critical to sustaining this positive environment."

Can we do that? There's the rub, as Shakespeare and Conrad de Quiros would say.

On the expenditure side, while a good start has been made with the House of Representatives already approving a 2008 budget that, for the most part, has its priorities right (a glaring "omission" is that the agrarian reform budget is slashed, at least in real terms), there could be "many a slip twixt cup and lip" as Cato the Elder would have said. The Senate or the Bicameral Conference Committee can mangle it, as can the President herself, for that matter, with her power to "realign." Add to the list the rent-seeking activities associated with the capital outlay budget, procurement and the pork barrel. All these "slips" would have a negative effect on growth sustainability, if not in the short term, very definitely in the medium and long-term.

The good news here is that there is a growing counterforce to these slips, particularly to the rent-seeking activities—what with organizations like the Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN), the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), whistle-blowers in and out of government, and journalists wearing (figuratively) white hats. It is getting harder and harder, or so I like to think, for the guys in the black hats to get away with their nefarious activities. So the prospects are good that there won't be so many slips as before.

What is problematic is the revenue side of the government's fiscal coin, particularly the tax revenues, for which the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs are mainly responsible. And the sad fact is that these agencies' tax collections are way below target.

Even more unfortunate, BIR head Lilian Hefti, following most of her predecessors, pointed out that the tax revenue targets are too high. This, of course, implies that tax collection shortfalls are not the fault of the agency that does the collection; it is rather the fault of the agency (Neda's Development Budget Coordinating Committee) that sets the targets.

It is easy to disabuse the minds of Ms Hefti, her predecessors and her successors, as well as sympathetic readers and journalists, of this illusion once and for all. How? The targets given for 2007 are consistent with a Tax Effort Ratio (TER)—tax revenues divided by GDP—of 14.7 percent. That is well below the actual Asean average TER of 16 percent. That is also well below the actual Philippine TER for 1997, which was 17 percent. And finally, that is also below the original target set for 2007, which was 15.2 percent.

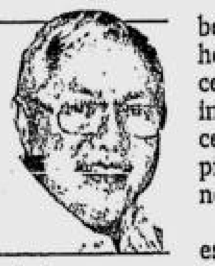
In other words, the 14.7 percent target for 2007 can be described as a "*mababaw ang kaligayahan*" (read: on the low side) target. We missed it by a mile in the first half of this year, and we're still only at 14.2 percent at the end of the third quarter.

Where do the shortfalls come from? Well, for starters, there is a news item which says that cigarette tax collections for 2007 were over a billion pesos lower than what was collected in 2006. This, despite both economic and population growth! Obvious *ba*? And by the way, the largest "leakages" are from the business and professional taxpayers.

Bottom line: Do we want to do our bit for the country? We need to do two things: closely monitor government expenditures and pay the correct taxes.

Multiple images of poverty

SOCIAL CLIMATE



Mahar Mangahas

THE CURRENT FACE OF PHILIPPINE POVERTY is that of little Mariannet Amper, from Ma-a, Davao City, only 12 years old, who apparently died by her own hand on Nov. 2, 2007, leaving behind an eloquent diary revealing her intense yet resigned feelings about her family's lot. (On Nov. 15, the Davao City autopsy report said that she had been sexually abused some time earlier, but did not dispute the suicide.)

Mariannet Amper's face and words could have been the final impetus for the administration's formation of an "Anti-Hunger Task Force," which met on Nov. 7, with President Macapagal-Arroyo ordering the budget secretary to release P1 billion for anti-hunger projects of the various task force members. The next day, however, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said "I want it all." ("Yap wants entire P1-B hunger mitigation fund for DA projects," Philippine Star, 11/9/07) Knowing that the Department of Agriculture initially suppressed its own Bureau of Agricultural Statistics' August 2006 national survey estimate that 19 percent of households suffered from hunger, and has no plan for BAS to survey hunger any further, I do not have high expectations about the current DA's ideas for fighting hunger.

Mariannet's story brings to mind the image of Mang Pandoy, the poor man (Felipe Natanio) who made headlines during the 1992 presidential campaign by offering to have himself killed in exchange for P100,000 to be given to his family.

When Mang Pandoy came on the scene, 15 years ago, many political leaders made resolutions to solve the poverty problem. Fifteen years is time enough to make a dent in the fight against poverty, if words are truly converted into actions. Now the story of Mariannet is spurring fresh resolutions to fight poverty. And yes, these resolutions may—though hopefully they will not—lead to fresh frustrations.

But even at the risk of renewed frustration, one must continue the fight, and do whatever one can. The war on poverty matters too much, to think of surrender. Activists must keep up their advocacy. Writers must write, artists must do their art.

Since politicians are good at making promises, they should continue making them; even promise-making serves a social function. Suppose citizens got convinced of the impossibility of improvements from the present order? Besides, those who actually keep their promises will surely be appreciated.

Social scientists must continue their work, which requires doing the measurements that provide materials to analyze. But we in social surveying must appreciate the superior capacity of individual images like those of Mang Pandoy and Mariannet Amper to capture hearts and minds. Indeed, even outright fiction—witness Rizal's "Noli" and "Fili"—can be more powerful than thoroughly documented history.

Be not deceived by smiling faces. The fact that poor Filipinos smile a lot doesn't mean that they don't suffer from deprivation. It only means that many find ways to be happy (*masaya*), despite their suffering. To begrudge happiness to the poor serves no useful purpose I can see.

The last time that Social Weather Stations surveyed happiness, which was in November 2006, 83 percent of adults said they were Very/Fairly Happy, and only 17 percent said they were Not Very/Not At All Happy.

The national proportion of households suffering involuntary hunger was already a very high 19 percent at that time, or some 3.3 million out of the national total of 17.4 million households. Of the 3.3 million, 2.6 million suffered moderately (hungry not more than a few times) and about 700,000 suffered severely (hungry often or always).

The national hunger of 19 percent in November 2006 was the average of 14 percent in households with Very Happy adult members, 19 percent in those with Fairly Happy adults, 31 percent in those with Not Very Happy adults, and 36 percent in those with Not At All Happy adults. Happiness is inversely related to hunger; but it does not exclude hunger.

The category of **severely hungry** covered an estimated 670,000 households. At one end were 180,000 who were nonetheless Very Happy, and at the other were 50,000 who were Not At All Happy. The 50,000 Not At All happy were composed of about 40,000 **often** hungry and 10,000 **always** hungry.

Perhaps, in this group of 10,000 households, experiencing both the worst hunger and the least happiness, there was a single, sensitive, troubled, and articulate child who, by ending her life out of sheer despair, impressed the Filipino people much more than any statistics could.

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World Pool. Congratulations to both champion Darryl Peach of England and runner-up Roberto "Superman" Gomez of the Philippines in the 2007 Philippines World Pool Championship. Peach had been seeded second in his original group of eight in the first round. Gomez made history as the first non-seeded player to ever reach the final of this event.

Considering national winnings in the knockout events, England, a long-shot with only four entrants, won $124,000, and the Philippines, a favorite with 15 entrants, won $83,500, accounting for over half of the total prize money of $400,000. Next were Taipei ($35,500), Hungary ($20,000), Japan ($14,500), Germany ($12,500), United States ($11,500), Finland ($10,000), Netherlands ($9,500), Serbia ($7,000), Australia and Vietnam ($5,000 each), Canada and Russia ($4,500 each), and Korea, Malta and Poland ($3,000 each).

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A special kind of teacher

COMMENTARY

Butch Hernandez

"MENTORING" HAS BECOME A BUZZWORD today.

This word is now commonly used by both education stakeholders and the Department of Education to describe an activity—or a set of activities—that seeks to enhance teaching competencies in specific subject areas like English, Science and Math. Many people interchange "mentoring" with "skills tutoring" for teachers who need to brush up on their classroom techniques or content mastery.

The Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP) popularized the term "mentoring" in 2003 when it developed the revolutionary Mentoring the Mentors Program (MMP) and ran successful pilot implementations for principals and master teachers in the DepEd's Iloilo City Schools Division.

Today, MMP is routinely implemented at the schools division level, and it is consistently well received by many DepEd regions. The program is run by Ms Chinit Rufino together with a team of education experts. The concerned DepEd superintendent figures prominently in every MMP implementation.

The FWWPP's definition of the mentoring process significantly departs from common usage. Rather than aiming to correct certain perceived "teaching deficiencies," MMP's approach is to encourage an atmosphere where teachers continuously and reflexively encourage learning by guiding and counseling their students through the different stages of their studies.

Many new or less-experienced teachers often find themselves overwhelmed by the demands of their calling. In high school or college, the first day of class is euphemistically called "the getting-to-know-you phase." For many teachers, it is actually the "Day of Reckoning."

Even before she utters the first word of her lecture, her students silently take stock of the person standing before them with unforgiving eyes and ears.

Is the teacher neat and pleasant to look at, or does her fashion sense betray her? Does she speak clearly, in firm and even tones or do students have to strain to make some sense of her barely intelligible mumbling? Most crucially, would her students look forward to the next day of class rather than think of her as additional fodder for their daily drudgery?

In grade school, the pupils' experience is more visceral. Is she kind and gentle? Is her voice warm and friendly? Will I have a lot of fun? Will she take care of me when my mother is away?

Teachers can and do feel isolated in the classroom. They struggle to apply their knowledge and skills to real situations in class. As they adjust to their new environment, their confidence is tested. Some get confused, discouraged or frustrated. Others even decide to give up teaching altogether.

FWWPP's Mentoring the Mentors Program submits that this situation need not happen provided a culture of mentoring exists among teachers in their respective schools, districts and divisions. All activities nationwide are coordinated by Dr. Evelyn Mejillano.

What makes a mentor special?

All of us have had teachers, some of whom we can barely remember. But we never forget our mentors. He or she did not just teach us how to read books, write paragraphs or solve math problems. Our mentor empowered us to successfully deal with life itself.

A mentor is a wise and trusted adviser, one who commands respect by virtue of experience and wisdom gained over time. He or she plays a significant role in shaping another person's life.

In the context of the MMP, this means that experienced teachers are primed to help and guide "newbies" through the different stages of their careers.

More specifically, the program design combines concepts and strategies from the Teaching Effectiveness Course (TEC) and the Faculty Formation Program (FFP) of the Assumption College. The TEC is currently being implemented by the University of the Philippines for its faculty who have no professional teacher training background but who have been asked to teach their profession. The FFP is given to faculty members of both formal and non-formal schools in the Assumption College's system.

Mentoring is never done haphazardly. It entails the preparation of a carefully considered Personal Development Plan where the teacher-participants make a sober assessment of their strong and weak points, both at the personal and professional level. Through highly interactive modules, the participants put their teaching strategies to the test as they carry out their Personal Development Plan. Continuously, the participants evaluate themselves and their peers, keeping themselves focused on their goals and adjusting their plans if need be. Finally, the participants—who are now "mentors-in-training"— endeavor to range what they have learned against the real-world situations obtaining in their respective schools.

Solid teaching skills, strategies and content mastery techniques are the fundamental building blocks of the MMP, but principals and master teachers from almost all DepEd regions invariably point to the newfound sense of community and purpose as the main reasons why they find value in the MMP sessions. It is not enough that we know the teaching manual from cover to cover, they say. We have to earn our students' trust and confidence as we guide them through the various learning phases.

Butch Hernandez is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power. E-mail comments to butchhernandez@gmail.com

Zubiri vs the Senate

BETWEEN DEADLINES

MISDIRECTED FIRE. AS EXPECTED, FIERCE Arroyo loyalist Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri used his question time to downplay whistle-blower Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio's testimony at the start of the Senate inquiry Wednesday into Malacañang's "cash gifts."

In doing so, however, Zubiri only managed to antagonize fellow senators—and provide amusement to the gallery.

Repeating House Deputy Speaker Amelita Villarosa's claim that the cash gifts came from the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) political party, Zubiri put committee chairman Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano on the spot by asking whether receiving party funds was illegal per se.

"As a matter of fact, I can recall [that] Senate President Manny Villar said that he's treating the Nacionalista Party [the party to which Cayetano belongs] to a trip to Egypt in the Nile River. I wish I could have joined them, but I'm not a member of the Nacionalista Party," Zubiri said tauntingly, as Cayetano hedged his answer.

He then directed his taunting at Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, when the latter pointed out that Zubiri's question was "premature" since Villarosa has not explained herself before the Senate.

Zubiri petulantly shot back: "But, Mr. Chairman, I don't think that the majority floor leader understands my question."

"I understand it fully, Mr. Chairman," Pangilinan replied, levelly. "Maybe the young senator does not understand my position."

Refusing to back down, Zubiri moved to suspend the hearing, ostensibly to let Pangilinan "cool his head because he's a little bit edgy."

A steely Pangilinan replied, "Allow me just to say my head is very cool, Mr. Chairman," prompting another remark from Zubiri that Pangilinan should not raise his voice.

At this point, Cayetano intervened to tell Zubiri that his question was hypothetical and then went on to answer hypothetically, explaining that the Senate was still determining whether laws on bribery and party contributions were violated.

Determined to have the last word, Zubiri made a final snide remark: "Thank you very much for that answer. That is all I wanted to hear."

Pangilinan's eyebrows shot up but otherwise the majority floor leader bit back a reply. While the gallery enjoyed their laugh, the rest of the senators let the incident pass without further comment.
D. Pazzibugan

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PINOYS EVERYWHERE. On a recent working trip this reporter made to the United States, she discovered that the Philippines was everywhere in America, whether on a street in Washington, D.C., a market in Seattle or a food court in a Honolulu mall.

Three days into the trip organized by the US State Department's Foreign Press Center for Asean journalists, this reporter was pleasantly surprised when, walking down the street to grab a takeout dinner, she heard a woman say behind me, "*Grabe talaga!*"

It was a Filipina in business attire, talking to somebody on the phone, excitedly sharing a story in conversational Taglish. This reporter had never been too glad to eavesdrop, but the pleasure was only for hearing somebody else speak Filipino.

At the famous Pike Place market in Seattle, when she complained about the freezing cold with a hearty "*Lamig!*" she was startled to hear somebody reply in Filipino. "*Kailan ka pa dito?*" a woman said to her.

The woman, in her 50s, said she has been living in the US for decades but came to visit home yearly. When asked if there was any Filipino restaurant nearby, she gladly walked me to one that served the staple dishes: *adobo, afritada, pancit* and rice. It wasn't quite as good as what I usually had back home, but I was only too glad to get a taste of home that day. (The dishes, however, were a bit too salty.)

Later that day, this reporter was again surprised to meet a group of fellow Filipinos on a duck tour around Seattle. The three friends, on vacation in the city, were as surprised as she was when she started talking to them in Filipino.

This reporter had also been told about how Hawaii has become home to too many Filipinos (if not too many Ilocanos), but it was still a treat to meet some of them.

At a food court in a Honolulu mall, I had a blast ordering takeout lunch in Filipino with the Filipina cashier.

While waiting for a delayed flight at the Honolulu airport, I met another Filipina cashier at a souvenir shop. Having been away for 20 years, she was just delighted to meet a Filipino who was not living in Hawaii.

Myrna had a bunch of questions about home, especially about politics. We chatted for a good 30 minutes, just catching up as if we had known each other for years. When it was time for me to go, she gave me a hug and a wide smile.
T. Quismundo

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BLAST FROM THE PAST. From the May 3, 1988 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer:

Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos thrice parried questions by reporters on his comments on further verbal attacks made by Sen. Ernesto Maceda against him on Wednesday.

"Smile" was all the secretary could say to all the questions as he explained that it was the only topic taken up in the Cabinet meeting early that day. He didn't just smile, he actually said the word. Thrice in that press conference.

Ramos said it was agreed in that Cabinet meeting that the members keep off controversial word wars with Congress, as Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig works out something to patch up differences between members of the two branches of government.

Seeing through Papa

YOUNG BLOOD

Daniel Doligon

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

YESTERDAY WAS PAPA'S 60TH BIRTHDAY. WHEN I SPOKE to him over the phone with Mama by his side, he almost broke into tears. His sonorous but firm voice cracked. I could feel in that voice that as he held his emotion, he was like a dam about to burst. He was grateful and overwhelmed that his three grown-up sons and daughter remembered him on his birthday. Our voices were enough to comfort him and Mama in their loneliness in an old ancestral house in a faraway province.

I thought Papa had changed so much but I soon realized that it was us, his children, who did. Of course, his hair has turned gray, his movements have been slowed by his weary muscles and aching joints, but I am referring to these traces of aging.

I used to see Papa as a fearsome young fellow, incapable of mercy and compassion. He was an embodiment of forbidding authority, illogical and unjust.

When we were growing up, our lives were defined by his unbending rules. At home, Papa's words were the law and his hands were a formidable weapon of discipline. A slight infraction would surely catch his ire. He would glare at us and when things turned to worse, he was ready to unleash his reproach, making sure that our childish whims would not be repeated. For us, his children and my young cousins, Papa was a fellow who deprived us of all the things a child should have or enjoy.

Papa did not allow us to eat sweets, candies and chocolates. It mattered not that they were gifts on special occasions like birthdays. He always said that they would destroy our teeth. He never gave us money because it would spoil us; it was not good for us to get used to having money in our hands. He didn't want us to have the impression that we had more than enough. He didn't indulge us with toys. Instead he lavished us with books and the Encyclopedia. We thought it was unfair, but we complained only in our minds or when he was not listening.

He was very angry when he caught us playing cards even though he knew we were not gambling.

There were no computer games either. We had our time for TV only on weekends when there were no classes. At nights, we had to be home by six o'clock, or else our young skin would get a taste of his brown leather belt. Before eating supper, we would pray the rosary, besides our going to Mass every Sunday. For him, it was a mortal sin to take lightly our faith, and until now he still believes so.

On weekends, he would see to it that we do house chores, even supervising us as we performed our assigned tasks mumbling our protestations to ourselves.

There were not just a few times that I envied my friends and wished to have been born in someone else's home or to other parents. There were times that I would cry till I would fall asleep, but Papa would never show a sign that he had a change of heart. There were countless times when my rebellious heart prodded me to run away or secretly curse him for what he was doing to us. Papa, I thought, was "over-disciplining" us and I wanted to hate him and make him feel sorry for it. It seemed to him that for Papa everything that children found to be good, enjoyable, innocent and thrilling was bad. And I thought, life would have been so beautiful but for a father like him.

Ironically, it was also during those times that I could not find a reason to fight him. Things seemed confusingly right and worked smoothly. I may not have found the reason he treated us that way, neither did I find one to hate him. I tried to look for faults in him but every time I did, I always ended up in dead ends. I tried to paint him as a monster like the ones I saw in the movies, but he wouldn't fit the picture. I felt so powerless because I felt the warmth of his love every time he reprimanded us for the wrongs we did.

Papa is still the same father I have known for 25 years. Though his hands are already frail, wearied by work and wrinkled by age. He barely scolds us now or imposes his rules. His voice is still firm but calm and comforting. His words are rules no more but nuggets of life's wisdom, a compass in our life's journey.

Papa's ways were not easy for both children and parents; there were neither short cuts nor candy-coated words. There was no room for pampering or childish indulgences. He knew that we could end up hating him for the way he disciplined us but Papa was willing to pay the price. He knew that he had a great responsibility before him.

When our tears dried up and our hurts somehow lightened, he would tell us in a calm and soothing tone that what he was doing was for us. Of course, we did not understand him then. It took us years to realize what he meant—that behind the spanks, his angry stares and occasional curses was a caring and loving heart that wouldn't give up on us. And I am glad he didn't.

Papa loves us so much. His ways might have been imperfect, but they grew out of his loving heart.

Daniel Doligon, 25, is a 3rd year San Beda law student. He wrote this article a few months ago before his Papa decided to go abroad to look for greener pastures.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

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THEY SAID

Overflowing

"The discretionary funds of Presidents are overflowing. Sharing this occasionally is a normal thing that I have personally experienced."
—Environment Secretary Lito Atienza

Party to bribery

"Corruption is so ingrained in the political system that people like Secretary Atienza can admit being a party to bribery without even [batting] an eyelash."
—Kilusang Mayo Uno chair Elmer Labog

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Heartless people around GMA

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS blamed "politicians and groups without heart and soul" for the worsening poverty in the country. She did it at a meeting of the National Anti-Poverty Commission. (INQUIRER, 11/14/07)

GMA might have forgotten that she and her political sycophants are among those heartless and soulless inhabitants of this nation. The Arroyo administration lacks the political will to curb corruption and scandals. Corruption is the main reason why the poor remain poor and those in power become rich. Worse, the people who are involved in corruption and scandals are members of her social and political cliques.

What we hear from Ms Arroyo are just promises, all words. The next time she speaks of heartless and soulless people, it would do her well to first practice how to say those words in front of a mirror.

—CARLITO D. BISA,
Pallocan West,
Batangas City 4200

Field officers used as 'shock absorbers' for Comelec's failure

THESE PAST FEW DAYS, THE FIELD OFFICERS of the Commission on Elections have been hounded no end by those who served as board of election tellers (many of them teachers) in the just concluded synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections. Weeks have passed since the Oct. 29 elections, but they have yet to receive the honoraria due them for their services.

Last May, a day before the senatorial and local elections, the election tellers—except for a few, perhaps—were given half of their honoraria; a day after, they received the other half. Their bones were weary and tired, but they were happy for they were paid immediately. This is not the case today. Worse, the pay is already comparatively much lower, yet it's been so delayed.

We commiserate with the election tellers. We respect their right to be indignant, especially with all the news going around that money, by the hundreds of thousands of pesos, has been distributed to congressmen and local officials for no apparent reason. Given this situation, it indeed is very painful to wait for a well-deserved compensation.

But they are barking up the wrong tree—the field officers of the Comelec are just at a loss as they are. These Comelec officials cannot even tell the teachers where to inquire, if only to appease their anger. They are now the "shock absorbers" for the failure of their superiors. The high-ranking officials of the Comelec should save them from that predicament.

—NESTOR SEGISMUNDO,
tongquijote@yahoo.com

Not to blame for Mariannet's death

I WAS OFFENDED TO READ THE SIDEbar story on Mariannet Amper's death ("We are all to blame for her death," INQUIRER, 11/8/07), which referred to "the moral lesson conveyed by some of the country's religious leaders." The story carried a quote: "Not only the government, but somehow we are all to blame for the fate of a 12-year-old girl in Davao, who took her own life because she was poor."

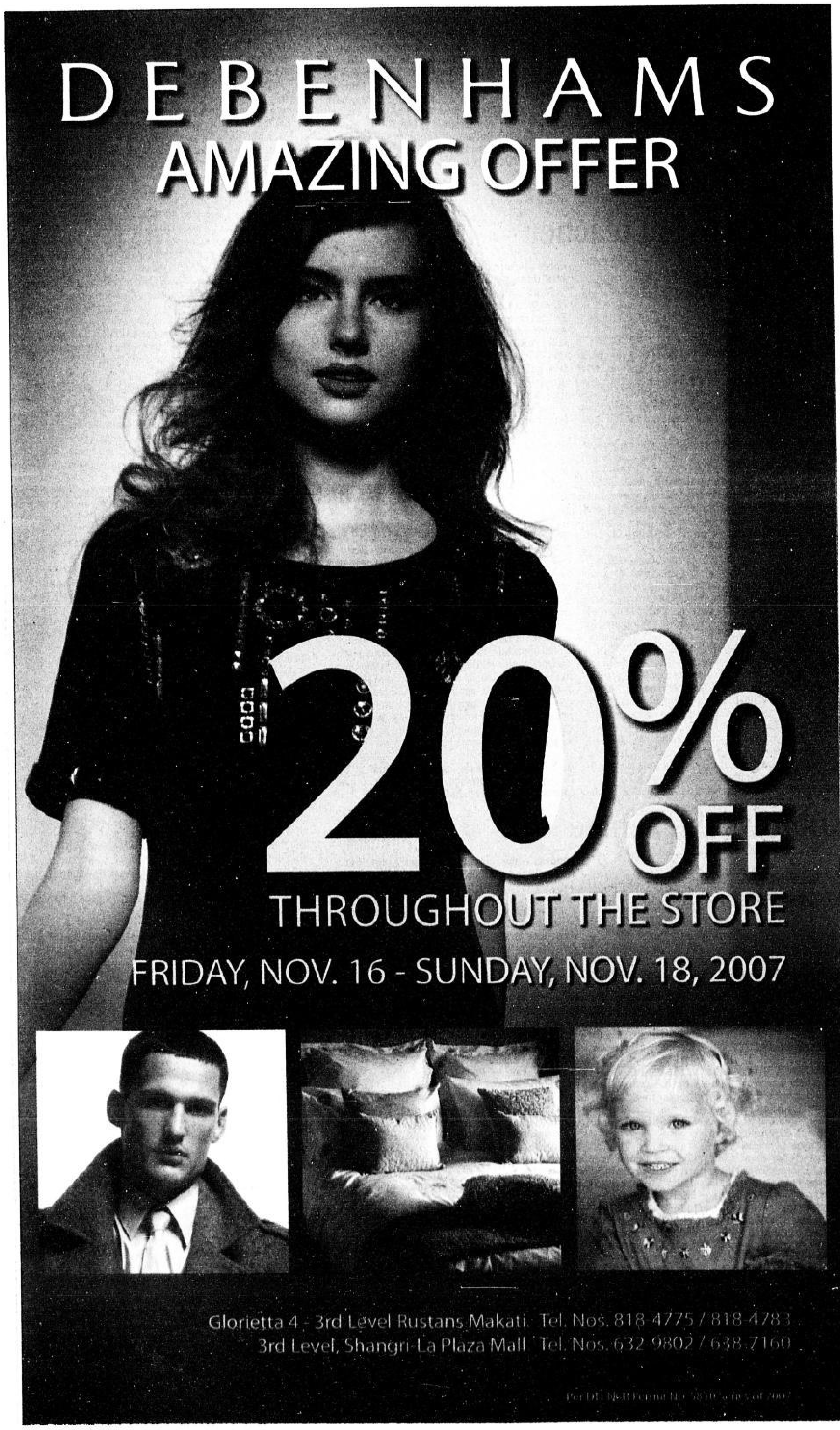
Excuse me, but I am neither overcome with guilt or shame or stricken with remorse. I am sure I am not alone in saying this: I am not guilty of driving a young child to her death, so do not lay blame on me. Do not take me on a guilt trip. If there is a moral lesson here, it is a lesson for a President and her economic planners who like to make a hype of economic growth rates and ignore the fact that the incidence of hunger has been increasing, that the number of desperate people climbing billboards or holding their children hostage because they couldn't find a job is becoming more frequent, and that 10.8 percent of the country's population still survives on just $1 a day, and another 41.2 percent makes do with less than $2 daily.

I am not guilty of stealing from the national coffers or squandering precious resources (that should have gone to social services spending), and therefore, I am not guilty of causing widespread hunger, desperation and utter helplessness. So do not tell me I am also to blame for the short, sad life of Mariannet.

I am not guilty because it is not my personal failure that Mariannet lived in poverty and died because of it, so do not manipulate me into feeling that I am somehow responsible for her death.

It is irresponsible, tasteless even to suggest that we are all to blame for what happened. It is offensive that the INQUIRER published such a despicable view side by side with the story about an unfortunate life and death of a child. The INQUIRER should have solicited other people's reactions and statements, instead of settling for a knee-jerk, warmed over, tasteless statement that didn't correctly put things in perspective.

—LANI C. VILLANUEVA,
124-B Scout Limbaga St.,
Barangay Sacred Heart, Quezon City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Mariannet's suicide: turn rage into action

ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS MY SADNESS OVER Mariannet Amper's death. It saddened me more to read that a public official brushed off Mariannet's suicide as an "isolated" case. (INQUIRER, 11/9/07)

I am a volunteer "street educator" for street children as well as for children in need of special protection.

The "public official" referred to in the news report is wrong. There are a lot of children who live miserably, without much hope of a better future. The death of even one of them hurts the nation.

We pray that the indignation over Mariannet's death would translate into action, otherwise, we would all remain part of the problem. We pray that our collective indignation would open a lot of "eyes" and move others to support programs for our marginalized children. We pray that the Church leaders would go beyond words. After all, "a Christian is a concerned citizen."

—LINA MELECIO TAN,
Liwawa Ed Asinan Foundation,
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DENR in wrong hands

IN NUEVA VIZCAYA, ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Lito Atienza said that we are poor because we don't know how to make wise use of our natural resources. (INQUIRER, 10/27/07) Coming from a staunch supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo and from someone who finds nothing wrong with the distribution of millions of pesos in "cash gifts" to governors and mayors last Oct. 11 in Malacañang, these words are hard to believe.

When government projects are tainted with bribery, it's easy to guess who truly benefits from the mining of our mineral resources. A poor country desperately offering itself to large-scale mining and logging is not any different from hungry natives selling their vital organs to rich foreigners. The immediate beneficiaries of such deals are the local middlemen.

The little income that a host community earns from logging or mining activities is not enough to fix the damage done to the environment. The community becomes the poor man who has sold a kidney.

In its Oct. 30 issue, the INQUIRER reported a massive fish kill off the coast of Rapu-Rapu, Albay, a host to the mining operations of Lafayette Inc. A friend, a professor from the National Institute of Geological Sciences at UP Diliman, was part of a government-formed committee that investigated, more than a year ago, the mining operations in Rapu-Rapu. The committee strongly recommended the closure of the mines. Malacañang chose to disregard the recommendation.

It is difficult to trust the government's open-door policy on mining when the ever juicy post of environment secretary is occupied by someone who sees nothing wrong with payoffs.

—MERCEDITAS DATUIN,
165 Maginhawa St.,
UP Village, Quezon City

Morally reprehensible

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE LETTER "NFA'S abolition won't make good economic, social sense." (INQUIRER, 11/6/07)

The question is not whether the National Food Authority benefits farmers. The NFA certainly benefits some. But at what cost? If we were to factor the cost of keeping the NFA into the price of NFA rice, would we be paying a lower price for imported rice? I doubt it. It is also morally reprehensible that rice consumers are forced to subsidize, through their taxes, rice producers.

I'm sure, if consumers were given the choice, they would buy cheaper rice. (It wouldn't matter to them if the rice is local or imported.) And why shouldn't they? Consumers should have the right to do what they want with the money they rightfully earn. This is the essence of the free market that the NFA criticizes.

Free markets mean everyone has the right to be free to buy/sell whatever from/to whomever they want, at a mutually agreed price, without being forced or defrauded to do so. Anti-free market advocates simply think they have a right to a decent livelihood that overrides a consumer's right to choose.

The letter-writer noted that Thai rice has a landed cost of P14 per kilo and may end up with a selling price higher than P18 per kilo. Then why don't we just remove all trade barriers to rice if local rice is apparently cheaper?. But I doubt his calculations.

—MARK BELO,
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Comfort camp for children with cancer

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND CAMP has brought children with cancer in Negros Occidental and those with parents afflicted by the disease together to share their fears, find support and rediscover fun.

The Suntown Camp at Maryshore was held in Talisay City on Nov. 3-5 with 30 children from the two groups participating, Dr. Marvie Abesamis, who co-directed the camp with Millie Kilayko, said.

Although camps of children with cancer had been set up in the past, it is important to also involve children who have parents with cancer because nobody is really taking care of their pain, said Abesamis, a renowned oncologist and chair of the Kapisanan ng May K sa Pilipinas.

If a mother has cancer, the father is preoccupied with caring for her and the children are left out, she said. The parents think they are too young to be involved with what is happening.

By making the children aware of the disease, they will overcome the feeling of helplessness, develop strength so they can move on, and know it is all right to still have fun, Dr. Estrella Agustin, chair of the University of Philippines Department of Family Life and Child Development and one of the assistant camp directors, said.

The camp also helps them become aware that they are not alone, Agustin said.

Usually children living through cancer are told by their friends in school to be strong, but at the camp, the people they meet allow them to cry and express their fears, she said.

When Suntown Camp was mounted, a worried Jelly Ann Agudo, 17, of Bago City wept on the first day, and camp volunteers took some time to coax her into sharing what was troubling her.

Agudo, whose father is a farmer, was crying because her mother Melinda, 43, has breast cancer and they do not have any money for her chemotherapy.

"I want my mother to get well but we do not have the means to help her," he said.

For so long, she has kept her worries to herself. She was glad to be able to cry and tell others at the camp how she feels, Agudo said.

The camp poet, Sky Luke Rodriguez, 16, who has leukemia, wrote: "When you say I love you, you are prepared to give up and risk everything, and to suffer and endure every single pain that comes your way when you start loving that person."

Fun and wishes

The camp participants were brought to the Museo sang Bata sa Negros in Sagay City, an interactive museum that enables children to learn about marine life and the preservation of the environment.

It was a rare chance for them to put their worries aside and be children again.

Lorenz Mapiscay, 12, of Bacolod City, said his mother had had cancer for a year and his wish was for her to be happy. Being at the camp was a treat, he said, because it meant not having to carry heavy cans of water for a couple of days.

Joel Berden, 8, who has had leukemia since 2002, said he was still undergoing chemotherapy.

Berden, a son of a welder from Barangay Mandalagan in Bacolod told the volunteers that his wish was to eat *lechon* (roasted pig). In Sagay City, his face lit up when volunteers led him to the *lechon* he wanted for lunch.

Cancer patient Renxon Soriba, 8, said his wish was to go to Lopue's East Center, a mall in Bacolod, so camp volunteer Mika Lopue promised to take him there.

Mia Angela Hulleza, 19, said her cancer had recurred after three years and she had just gone through chemotherapy, but she was happy to be at the camp. "It is fun, I like to go places," she said.

Assumption Class '65 alumnae set up a Christmas tree and giant snowman as a surprise for the children at Maryshore on the night of Nov. 4. They also gave the children presents and danced with them.

The children's wants and wishes are so simple that it does not take much to make them happy, Dr. Alvin Parreño, a Bacolod pediatrician and one of the assistant directors, said.

He said the camp was a start, but support groups would have to be created to carry on the work.

"I am so grateful they gave Kassandra three days of happiness. It was a treat for her I could never give on my own," a grandmother of 9-year-old camp participant Kassandra Dampitan said.

The woman has been undergoing treatment for breast cancer for two years now. She took Dampitan into her care when the girl's family fell apart when she was 4 years old.

Dampitan's mother, Kelly Ann, is a sidewalk vendor in Alabang, Metro Manila, and could not afford to take care of Kassandra and her younger brother after her husband sold their house and was eventually jailed.

Faith and a piggy bank

For one participant, a lot of faith and a little boy's piggy bank were what saved her life when she was 3 years old.

Janica Mariz Bantigue was diagnosed in 1998 to have acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), a type of cancer of the blood and bone marrow where blood cells are made.

Her father Jessie, who runs a *sari-sari* store in Purok Katilingban, Barangay Banago, Bacolod, and mother Mary Ann, who works as a teller of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. in Bacolod, attribute her recovery to their strong faith in God, her courage and a little boy's sacrifice.

Janica's treatment would require at least half a million pesos, but her parents did not have that much money.

Dinah Ocixio, an officemate of Mary Ann, came to work one day with a piggy bank full of coins. Her son Bimboy Oxinio, 7, had given up his entire savings of P200 to help Janica.

The act of kindness triggered a chain reaction, with officemates contributing a little while another came up with a poster asking for help for Janica and faxed it to other PLDT branches all over the country. Contributions started coming in.

PLDT Bacolod assistant operations manager Rene Lescano sent one of Janica's posters to Mat Luga, a PLDT vice president, who informed then PLDT Chair Antonio Cojuangco about the case. Cojuangco immediately offered to pay for all of Janica's medical expenses.

Janica underwent chemotherapy and she was cancer-free at the age of 8 years.

Bantigue is now 12 years old and a Grade 6 honor student and declaimer at the Bacolod Christian Center. She is no longer bald and frail. For four years now, she has been cancer-free.

Volunteerism lauded

Also lending their expertise to the camp were Dr. Isabel Melgar of the Department of Psychology of the Ateneo de Manila University, and museum curator Lilibeth Cordova, one of the assistant directors.

They said they were inspired and touched by the spirit of volunteerism at Suntown. The volunteers are overflowing, and there is popular, political will, they said.

Suntown Camp 1 is the first of a series of activities being organized for children affected by cancer, Kilayko said.

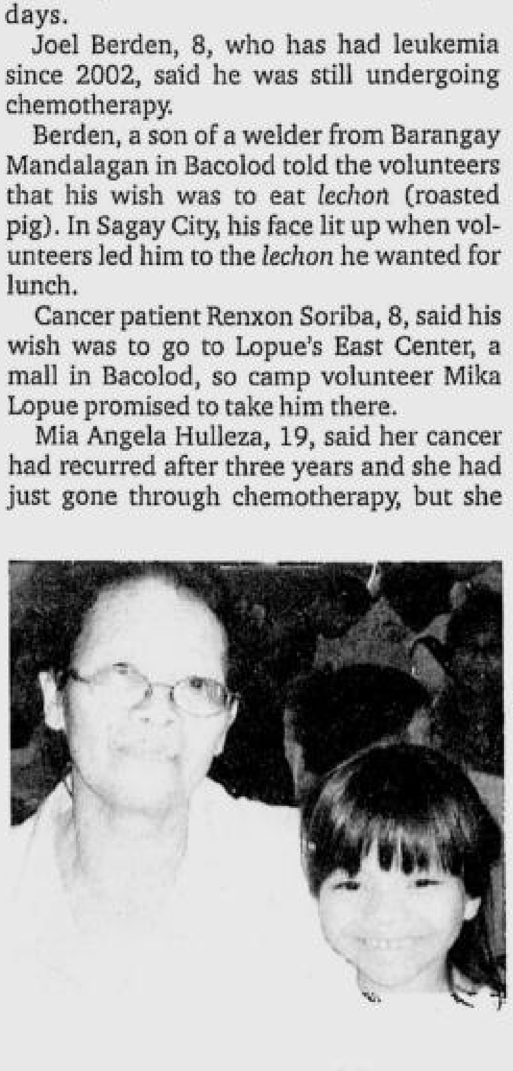
"Those who gave their time, talent and treasures toward the fulfillment of the camps' objectives are vignettes of the true love of God transported into human experience," she said.

The camp was funded by donations from firms and individuals. It is still accepting donations and Kilayko can be reached at suntowncamp@yahoo.com.

MUSEUM guide Pia Mae Repaso, left, explains the parts of a fish to the camp participants.

CARLA P. GOMEZ

'By making the children aware of the disease, they will overcome the feeling of helplessness, develop strength so they can move on, and know it is all right to have fun'



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TAÑON STRAIT is home to dolphins that could disappear when oil exploration in the area starts.
YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

Oil exploration in Tañon watched

By Alex Pal
Dumaguete City

ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE keeping a tight watch on the Department of Energy's oil exploration drilling in Tañon Strait that was supposed to start this week.

The drilling was to take place on board a floating oilrig, which was towed to the site, about three kilometers off the coast of Aloguinsan and Pinamungahan towns in Cebu. These areas are directly across La Libertad and Jimalalud towns in Negros Oriental.

But the scientists feared the possible harm that the noise of underwater blasting would have on sea creatures.

Two weeks ago, about 170 marine scientists who met in Iloilo passed a resolution opposing any oil exploration activity in Tañon Strait, citing the strait's unique biodiversity as a protected seascape.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes defended the project in a forum with environmentalists, stakeholders and their contractor, the Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd. (Japex), at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City on Nov. 8.

Silliman University president Dr. Ben Malayang III accompanied a battery of scientists, legal experts and theologians to the dialogue.

Reyes said the exploratory drilling for oil in the strait would start on Nov. 15. He said this date was set about two or three years ago. "This is something that you don't decide on overnight," he said, as he allayed fears that the welfare of the fishermen and the environment would be ignored.

Sensing that nothing could be done by anyone to stop the exploratory drillings pending exhaustive environmental studies, Malayang offered the expertise of scientists from SU to monitor the water quality and behavior of cetaceans, or marine mammals, while the drilling would continue for two months.

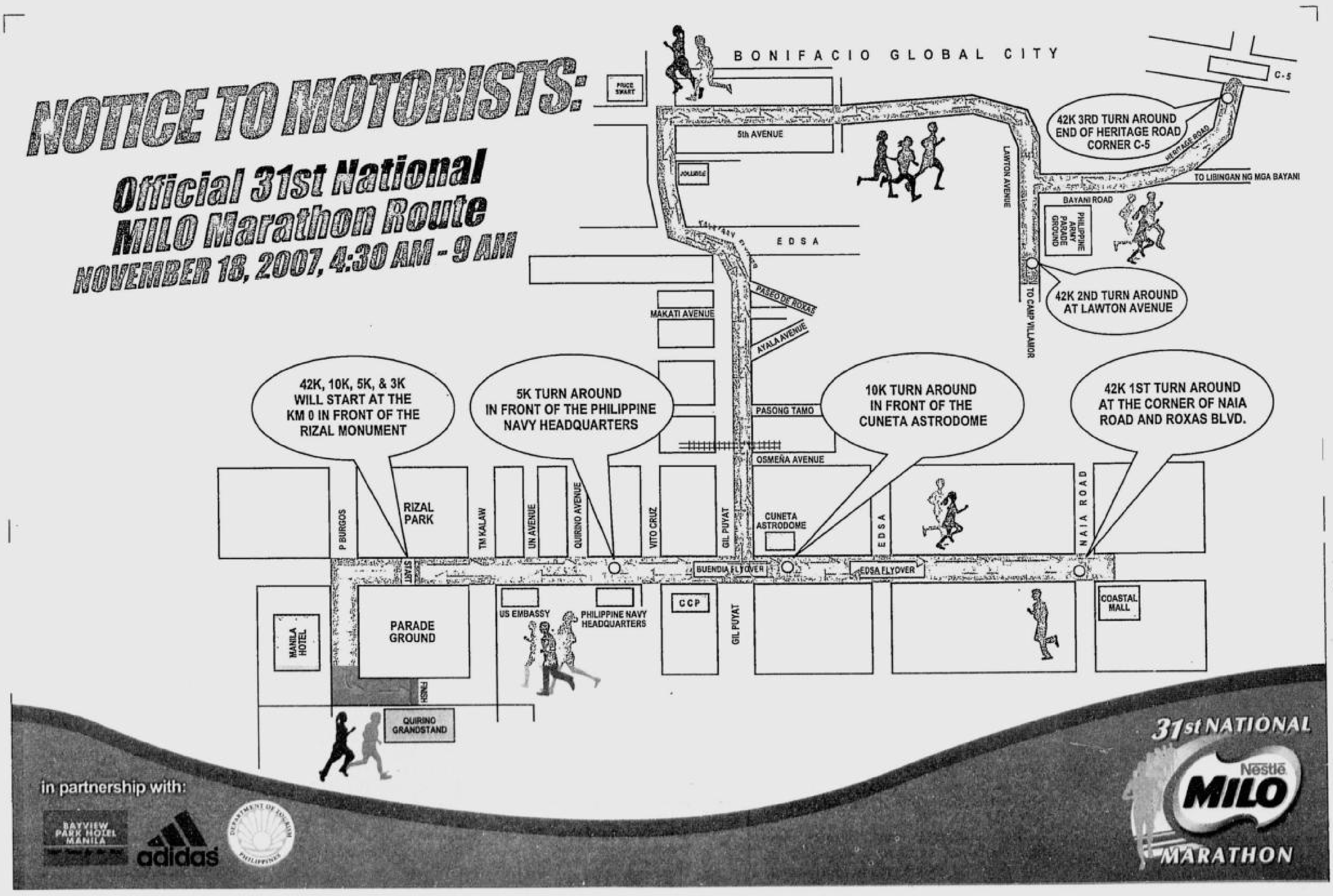
Aside from the formation of a multipartite monitoring team, lawyer Mikhail Lee Maxino, director of the Salonga Center for Law and Development based in SU, had also demanded that Japex set up an Environmental Guarantee Fund to immediately address possible problems that may arise from the operation.

Reyes, however, clarified that this activity to be carried out by Japex for two months is only limited to oil exploration.

"This is not commercial drilling yet. If oil is found in Tañon Strait and its quantity is sufficient and declared mineable, it would need a full-blown environmental study and a law from Congress," he said.

Malayang also pointed out the need to put a value on the present resources found in the strait, which may be very vital in determining whether actual commercial oil drilling will be feasible.

"We might be jeopardizing the vital resource for an unknown commodity," he said.



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5K TURN AROUND IN FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY HEADQUARTERS
10K TURN AROUND IN FRONT OF THE CUNETA ASTRODOME
42K 1ST TURN AROUND AT THE CORNER OF NAIA ROAD AND ROXAS BLVD.
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Most 'kotong' cops new, says PNP exec

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—ONLY 80, OR ONE percent, of 8,000 policemen in Central Luzon are involved in extortion (*kotong*) and most of them are neophyte cops with ranks of Police Officer 1 or 2, the regional police chief said.

"Because they're new, they need training and discipline in managing their finances. They have the propensity to indulge in caprices like buying television sets, firearms and engaging in 'good time,'" said Chief Supt. Errol Pan, Central Luzon police director.

"Kotong," he said, happens when a policeman tries to collect money from civilians by way of delaying the issuance of clearances or reports or dropping hints of having no gasoline to use for a vehicle.

Pan said extortion is practiced by even those with higher ranks.

He said the antikotong campaign, launched by the national police headquarters early this week, would pounce on policemen regardless of the amount they try to filch.

"The punishment is not based on the sum. The intention [of extortion] is the same so they would all be meted administrative actions by the regional staff investigation unit," he said.

INQUIRER sources in the public transport sector doubted if the campaign would succeed.

"Reporting extortion would not be easy because we risk the ire of persons in authority," a transport leader in Pampanga said.

He said policemen get their daily *kotong* from transport groups from a regular share from dues.

Some of them found Pan's estimate of the number of "kotong cops" to be very low or unrealistic.

To track down these erring cops, Pan's office has formed "honesty teams" at the regional, provincial and city levels.

On top of receiving complaints through Pan's mobile phone, the police have asked the public to send reports of extortion by text message to 2920 in the 14-month campaign period.

Surveillance cameras have been bought to entrap erring policemen.

"The policemen are not above the law. Their orientation should be to protect and serve communities, not become the oppressors," Pan said.

The salaries of policemen are, by now, comparable to that of teachers, he said.

Those with ranks of PO1 get P8,605; PO2, P10,635; PO3, P11,949; Senior Police Officer 1, P13,427; SPO2, P14,232; SPO3, P16,595; SPO4, P17,591; Inspector, P20,167; Senior Inspector, P20,974; Chief Inspector, P21,814; Superintendent, P24,955; Senior Superintendent, P25,953; Chief Superintendent, P29,690; Director, P31,635; Deputy Director General, P32,901; and Director General, P37,500.

"It's a matter of spending what you can afford to spend. Money would not be enough if you have vices. Your income must match your lifestyle," Pan said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

FATIGUE
Fatigue sets in on one of several farmers from Sumilao, Bukidnon who are marching to Manila on a nearly 2,000-km trek to regain what they said was their ancestral land that was sold to a private firm. This member of the group takes a rest by the roadside on the Maharlika Highway in Pilar, Sorsogon.

Napocor owes Zambales towns ₱619M in taxes

IBA, ZAMBALES—THE NATIONal Power Corp. (Napocor) has yet to pay P619.5 million worth of taxes to the Zambales and Iba municipal governments that local officials fear could derail the privatization of the 600-megawatt Masinloc Coal Fired Thermal Power Plant (MCFTPP).

Joey Dolojan, consultant to the Office of the Governor, said Napocor has not been paying taxes to the provincial and local governments for the past five years, delaying the supposed takeover of the Masinloc Power Partners Co. Ltd (MPPCL) next month.

Part of Napocor debt represents six years of unpaid franchise tax covering 2002 to 2007 estimated at P240 million while business tax dues imposed by the Masinloc local government has a total cost of at least P379.5 million from 1999, Dolojan said.

He said the Napocor tax dues were brought up during the actual on-site inventory by his group, the MPPCL, and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) last month.

He said the Applied Engineering System (AES) found in that inventory that one of the plant's generating units was not functioning.

The MPPCL is a subsidiary company of AES, a multinational company based in Arlington, Virginia in the United States that won the bidding for the Masinloc coal plant for $930 million on July 26 this year.

Nilo Madrid, Masinloc plant manager, said the Napocor would await court suits from local governments over the taxes.

Citing the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), Madrid said Napocor is relieved from all tax dues it owed local governments.

"They can go to court if they want to," he added. *Inquirer Central Luzon*

Loren given 'tukwifi' title by Cordillera women leaders

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Sen. Loren Legarda brushed aside talks about her political plans but a gathering of Cordillera women leaders here on Thursday did the talking for her.

Officials of the Cordillera Indigenous Elected Women Leaders' League (Cindewoll) did not mince words in adopting Legarda as honorary Cindewoll member which they said was also meant to prop her presidential bid.

Legarda was given the Igorot name "Tukwifi" or "bright star" of the Cordillera in rites at the Benguet State University.

Atok Mayor Concepcion Balao, Cindewoll president, cited Legarda's "being an epitome of a woman leader."

Balao later said if Legarda decides to pursue her presidential ambition, the region's elected indigenous women leaders would support her.

Asked why, she told the INQUIRER: "Because she is a woman and a mother."

But Legarda refused to be categorical about her political plans.

"I will not be shy about it," she later told reporters in a press conference.

"I think there is something about women leaders, that we can provide not only competence but also compassion in public service," she said.

However, Legarda said it was still to early to discuss the 2010 elections.

"Politics of 2010 can wait," she said.

Undersecretary Josephine Dominguez, of the Office of the Political Adviser, said Legarda would be the candidate of the Cordillera's indigenous elected women leaders.

"That's why we adopted her as honorary member of our organization," she said. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Polls fail to fill East Visayas youth council seats

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—A SANGGUniang Kabataan chair without council members or an SK council without a chair.

These were the cases noted by the Commission on Elections in different parts of Eastern Visayas as it started to collate the region-wide results of the recently concluded barangay and SK elections.

And the situation might justify the call for the abolition of the SK in the country, said lawyer Adolfo Ibañez, regional director of Comelec.

Ibañez said there was a number of villages in the region that only the position for the SK chair was filled up or only the posts for council were filled up. In some cases, the seven-member SK councils were only half filled.

Ibañez cited the case of Barangay Danao in Maripipi town of Biliran where the lone candidate for SK chair, Arnel Rosario, won with six votes but has no councilors to help transact SK affairs in his barangay.

In Biliran's provincial capital of Naval, six ran and won for council seats but they have no SK chair. The SK chair is supposed to sit in the barangay council as an ex-officio member, representing the youth.

The island-province of Biliran, composed of eight municipalities, has 7,387 registered SK voters.

Ibañez said based on information he received from election officers in the region, "this situation is also (reflective) in other towns in Samar."

The region has more than 200,000 registered SK voters.

In Tacloban City, a similar situation was true in Barangay 97 where only four ran and won for SK council seats with no one filing a certificate of candidacy for SK chairmanship.

All 63 registered voters of the village cast their votes.

Joseph Myles Colasito, regional information officer of the Department of Interior and Local Government, said he could not comment as the DILG has yet to come up with guidelines on how to deal with the absence of an SK chair or SK council members in a barangay.

"But one thing sure is, the barangay chair cannot appoint anybody to fill up the vacant positions," Colasito said.

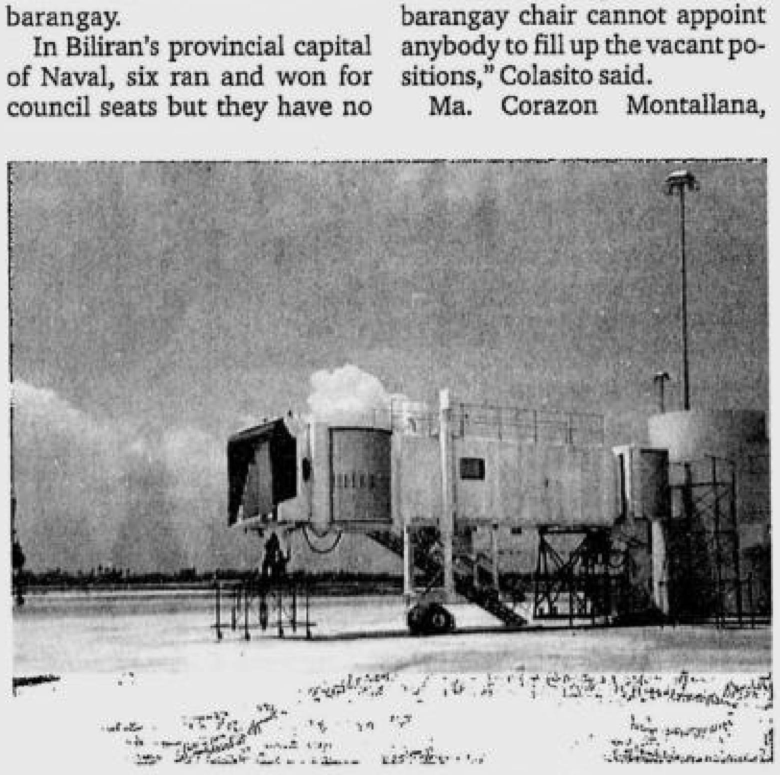
Ma. Corazon Montallana, city elections officer, said that an elected SK chair without any councilors can still discharge his duties.

"He still represents the SK in the village," she said.

Ibañez said that lack of interest among the youth to participate was cited as the main reason only few ran in the Oct. 29 SK elections.

An SK chair enjoys, among other benefits, an honorarium and civil service eligibility, Ibañez said.

A MAN holds on to his three-month-old son as he casts his vote for barangay and youth council officials. While voter turnout for the elections was high, many youth council positions in various parts of the country are without candidates. LYN RILLON



A PORTION OF the new Bacolod Airport in Silay City. INQUIRER PHOTO

New Bacolod airport open next month

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE NEW Bacolod-Silay Airport is expected to open by Christmas, a Department of Transportation and Communication official said yesterday.

The old airport in Bacolod City will close a day after the opening of the new airport, according to Director Edgar Mangalili, head of the DOTC airport special projects.

But the exact date of the new airport's opening would depend on President Macapagal-Arroyo's schedule, Mangalili said in a dialogue with Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon.

Ms Arroyo is to inaugurate the project.

The new airport in Silay City has a runway length of 2 km and will be able to accommodate Airbus 330 planes that carry more than 300 passengers. The current airport can only accommodate Airbus 320 that can carry 140 to 160 passengers.

The new airport was designed for domestic flights and it would be up to the Air Transportation Office and the Civil Aeronautics Board if it could be used for international flights, Mangalili said.

A plan to extend the runway by 500 meters is in place, he said.

Flight tests at the new airport have been completed and one of the requirements for its opening is the international publication of all data about the new airport, including location and coordinates, he said.

The ATO is now preparing the data for publication.

The McKinley Road in Silay City, which leads to the new airport, is being widened.

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Late SPORTS

Welcoat upsets M'nolia

Express ruin 'Spark' return

GAME TODAY *(Tacloban City)*
4:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods

By Musong R. Castillo

WELCOAT BROUGHT ANOTHER HEAVYweight to its knees last night and won back-to-back games for the first time in its PBA existence, coming out on top of an old-fashioned shootout against Magnolia, 95-93, in the Smart PBA Philippine Cup eliminations.

The Dragons blew a 17-point third quarter lead and had to rally from eight down in the final seven minutes before pounding out the win, a fitting sequel to a 126-125 upset of Talk 'N Text last weekend.

And more than that, it put the Dragons near the middle of the 10-team pack at 3-4 while dealing the rock-solid Beverage Masters their third defeat also in seven games.

"I still can't believe it," said Welcoat coach Leo Austria in Filipino.

Air21 snapped a two-game slide and dealt Mark "The Spark" Caguioa a rude welcome as the Express came from behind to score a 102-95 victory in the second game.

Ranidel de Ocampo shot 10 of his 23 in the fourth period as Air21 rose to 3-4.

Caguioa saw action for the first time in seven games, shooting just six points as the Gin Kings fell to 2-5.

The scores:

First Game

WELCOAT 95—Wainwright 18, Belasco 18, Devance 16, Arana 12, Reyes 12, Lopez 10, Gelig 4, Ibanes 3, Baguion 2, Dulay 0, Sta, Maria 0, Tangkay 0.

MAGNOLIA 93—Hontiveros 24, Seigle 19, Tenorio 15, Villanueva 11, Ildefonso 9, Fonacier 5, Gonzales 4, Eman 2, Wilson 2, Tugade 2, Racela 0.

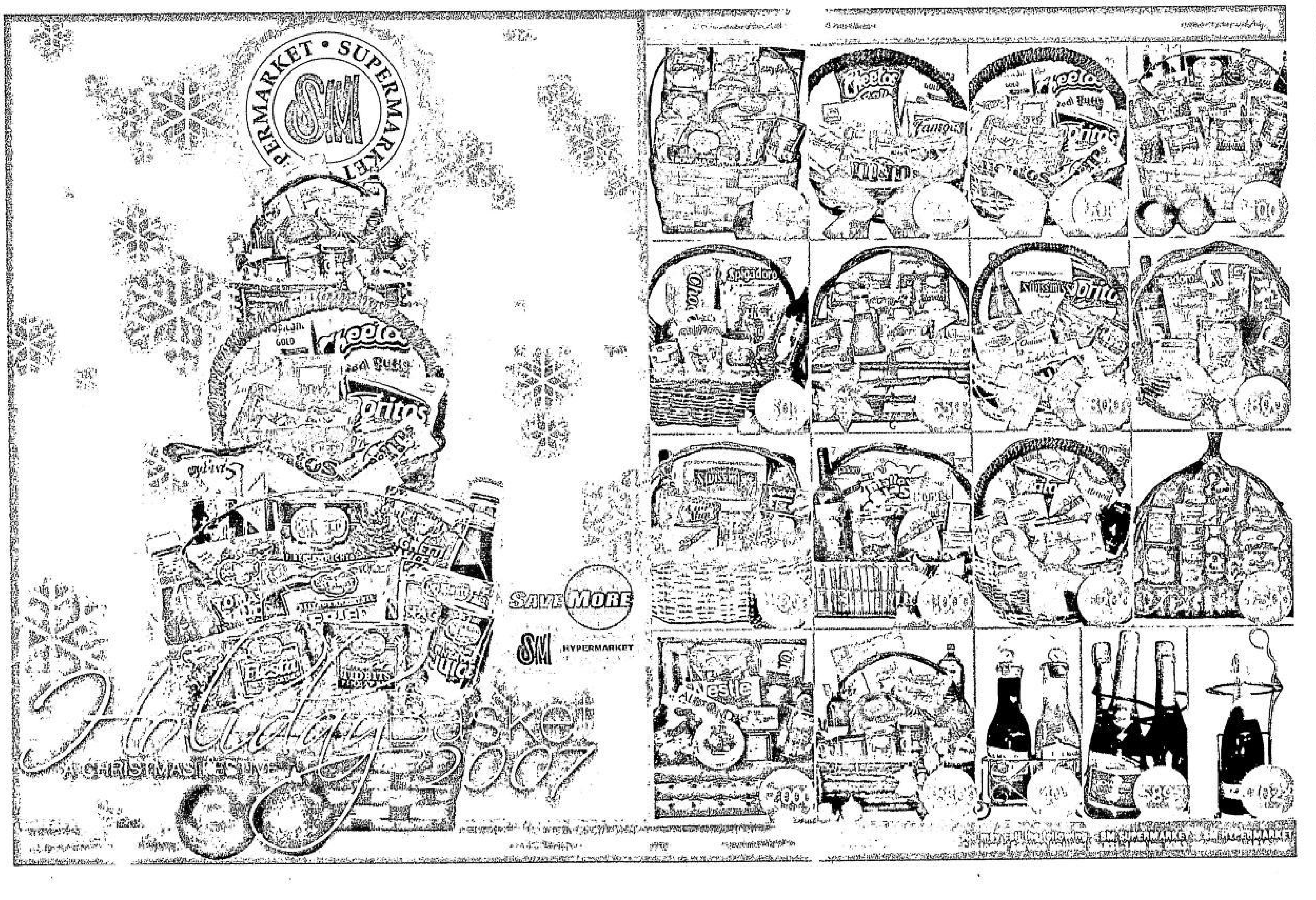
Quarters: 30-24, 48-49, 77-69, 95-93

Second Game

AIR21 102—Santos 23, De Ocampo 23, Canaleta 9, Arboleda 9, Kramer 8, Se 8, Dimaunahan 7, Intal 6, Chia 4, Cruz 3, Sotto 2, Baluyot 0.

BARANGAY GINEBRA 95—Helterbrand 22, Macapagal 11, Escalona 10, Tubid 10, Holper 9, Salvacion 9, Reavis 7, Caguioa 6, Mamaril 5, Artadi 4, Menk 2, Abarrientos 0.

Quarters: 23-20, 42-48, 67-75, 102-95



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'We're not gay,' Piolo, Sam declare

ABS-CBN talents file P12-M libel suit vs Lolit Solis, editor

By Allison W. Lopez

MOVIE ACTORS PIOLO JOSE PASCUAL AND Samuel Lloyd "Sam" Milby yesterday filed a P12-million libel suit against show biz columnist Lolita "Lolit" Solis at the Manila City Prosecutor's Office, for portraying them as "gay men" in an Oct. 15 newspaper column.

PIOLO Pascual (left) and Sam Milby (right) show their joint complaint/affidavit together with their lawyer Josebeth Alonso in a press conference at Bayview Park Hotel. RYAN LIM

In their joint complaint, Pascual and Milby named Solis and Pilipino Star Ngayon's entertainment editor Veronica Samio as respondents in the case that stemmed from an item in Solis' "Take It, Take It" column, where she claimed to have seen the male singers being "sweet" in the poolside coffeeshop of the Sofitel Hotel around 4 p.m. of Oct. 12.

The two talents of ABS-CBN's Star Magic were mobbed by fans and curious onlookers when they personally went to the Manila City Hall to attest to the authenticity of their joint affidavit around 9 a.m. yesterday.

"Her story was absolutely without any factual basis. We were not at Sofitel Hotel on Oct. 12, 2007. We were not even together on the said date," the two said in an underlined and boldfaced portion of their joint complaint.

In their complaint, Pascual and Milby said they were "outraged" when they learned about Solis' article.

"Apart from being a complete lie, it contained words and phrases sufficient to leave in the minds of the readers that we are gay men engaged in a romantic dalliance, an imputation which seriously damaged our reputation as bankable actors," they said.

Attached to the complaint was a copy of Solis article titled "Piolo *at Sam, huling huling naglalampungan*," and a letter demanding from Solis a public retraction of her article and a public apology.

SOLIS: They're getting free publicity

Since Solis refused to renounce her "defamatory" statements and even issued a "purported apology" in her talk show in a rival network, Pascual and Milby said they decided to sue her for libel in order to clear their names.

Though she did not directly use the term "gay men" in her article, the complainants said the words and phrases that she used—like "*kakaiba*," "sweet," and "*halos magkadikit na nga ang mga pisngi*," were sufficient to make the readers understand that they were such.

The five elements of libel, they claimed, were present in Solis' case: that it was defamatory, made publicly, malicious, directed at a natural or juridical person, and tends to cause dishonor, discredit or contempt of the person/s defamed.

Being celebrities or "public figures," said Pascual and Milby, did not give Solis a "blanket license" to rummage into their private lives and malign their reputations.

For publishing the story, they said Samio was equally liable for libel under Article 360 of the Revised Penal Code.

The two product endorsers sought P5 million each in moral damages due to the "mental anguish, besmirched reputations and social humiliation" caused by the article and P1 million each for exemplary damages.

Lolit Solis won't retract, stands by her story

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AFTER ACTORS PIOLO PAScual and Sam Milby filed a libel suit against her yesterday, talent manager, entertainment columnist and TV host Lolit Solis remained unperturbed.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, she reiterated that she was standing by her story, which came out in her column "Take It, Take It" in the Oct. 15 issue of the tabloid Pilipino Star Ngayon.

In her column, Solis reported that she saw the two actors in the poolside coffeeshop of Hotel Sofitel on Oct. 12.

"I saw them with my two eyes," she asserted. "I'm sorry if I hurt their feelings, but I cannot retract my story."

She dismissed allegations that she didn't actually witness the incident and that it was only relayed to her by a friend.

"It would be easy for me to retract if it were based on hearsay. But I'm sure about what I saw," she said.

In separate statements, Pascual and Milby both denied Solis' column item.

"We were not at Sofitel last Oct. 12 so the entire article is a fabrication, a concocted story," Milby said.

Solis insisted that she merely

LOLIT/A20

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Police nab suspect in Las Piñas court killings

By DJ Yap

THE MAN SUSPECTED OF shooting his wife and her lawyer dead inside a Las Piñas City courtroom on Thursday was arrested by the police after midnight yesterday during a manhunt operation in Taguig City.

Operatives of the Las Piñas City Police nabbed Roberto Tubale inside a house in Signal Village at 12:45 a.m. several hours after he allegedly shot his wife Lolita, who had filed a case for the annulment of their marriage, and her lawyer Rebecca Basa.

Senior Insp. Jan Dale Sulit, chief of the city police station investigation division, said Tubale, 53, did not resist arrest but opted to keep silent while waiting for his lawyer.

"He refused to be subjected to a paraffin test and said he would wait for his counsel before answering the investigators' questions," Sulit said.

On Thursday morning, Tubale allegedly entered the courtroom of Judge Joselito Vibandor of the Las Piñas Regional Trial Court Branch 199 and suddenly shot the two women with a handgun while they were waiting for the hearing to start.

In the commotion after the shooting, the suspect slipped past the crowd and managed to escape, investigators said.

The police were initially clueless as to the gunman's identity until eyewitnesses, including a court stenographer, positively identified Tubale as the gunman after they were shown his photos.

Lolita Tubale, 51, and Basa were shot in the head and died while they were being treated at the University of Perpetual Help Medical Center.

Vibandor's courtroom is located near the health center at the City Hall compound. It is temporarily separated from other branches which are located in the Hall of Justice building which is under renovation.

Guards were posted at the entrance to the City Hall compound, and a bailiff, who was supposed to be standing guard, was "on his way" to the courtroom when the shooting occurred, the police said.

As of yesterday, it remained unclear how the suspect was able to bring a weapon inside the compound without being detected.

Senior Supt. Amando Empiso, chief of the Las Piñas police, earlier explained that before anyone could enter the courtroom, they would have to pass a room where members of Vibandor's staff held office.

The staff members told the police that the suspect even exchanged pleasantries with them before going inside the courtroom. Suddenly, two shots rang out, and the man ran past them.

Lolit...

• From page A19

said that the two actors were "*nagbubulungan* [whispering to each other]."

"I'm wondering why Piolo and Sam are so upset when previous articles that have been written about them are far worse." she said.

"It's not [the right] defense. Just because previous stories are bad doesn't give you license to do the same," countered Joji Alonso, Pascual and Milby's counsel, along with Lani Barcenas and Peachy Selda.

"We are suing because our dignity and integrity have been assailed ... She has disrespected us as colleagues and human beings and the only way left to restore this respect is through the courts of law," Pascual said.

Solis said the two actors' legal action didn't catch her by surprise.

"Even if I had apologized or retracted my story, they would still push through with the case. As a result of this issue, they are continuously in the news. As we say in show biz, good or bad publicity is still publicity. Piolo has a concert. Sam has a concert. They're getting free publicity because of this case," Solis explained. "They are the ones benefiting from this scandal. Not me. Why are they filing the case only now when previous stories about them had been worse?"

"That is not true. If she retracted, Piolo and Sam wouldn't have pursued the case," Alonso said.

Major reshuffle set at MPD

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA POLICE DISTRICT IS expected to implement on Monday a major reshuffle which will affect the city's 11 station commanders.

MPD director Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales said the changes would be based on the performance of the station commanders and chiefs of offices. Nonperformers would be transferred to other units, he said.

"The MPD reorganization would help eliminate rogue cops from the ranks," said Rosales, who submitted to Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday the evaluation and list of officers who would be affected by the revamp.

"We expect to implement the reshuffle on Monday," Rosales said.

"Beside each official's name on the list will be the reason why he needs to be transferred or why I'm recommending him for a new post," he added.

Rosales also disclosed that the reorganization of the police force, particularly among station commanders, police community precincts and command staff, would be implemented often.

"Those policemen who perform their duties well would remain in their posts but non-performers would be on their way out," Rosales said. "Let us now put a true meaning to the Manila's Finest whose members must exhibit authority and command respect to the people."

Lim had earlier ordered the reshuffle following the alleged involvement of an officer and his men in extortion activities.

Mea culpa on media sensationalism

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF INDEED IT WAS THE ABU SAYYAF terrorist group that bombed the Batasan complex, then I'm very happy to be proven wrong in my "educated guess."

I feel very much relieved that it was not some members of the Philippine Marine Corps that perpetrated the bombing that killed Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar and three others and wounded 11 others, two of them lawmakers.

Let's all hope the police got the real culprits and didn't just pick up scapegoats due to intense public pressure to solve the crime.

Either way—whether it was his former colleagues at the Abu Sayyaf or the military that did him in—it was karmic justice.

Karma, the universal law of cause and effect, says that one reaps what he sows. If it's goodwill, then he will reap goodwill; if violence, then violence he will harvest.

Akbar lived a violent life, and so ended up a victim of violence.

***

I thought some Marines were involved in Akbar's violent death because they suspected his men of beheading and mutilating dead Marines after an ambush in Basilan in July.

Based on my knowledge of the mind-set of a typical Marine, I thought Marine vendetta was behind the killing of the controversial Muslim politician.

From what I know of them, Marines avenge the death of their comrades.

In 1993, a platoon of Marines was ambushed in Basilan on its way back to camp.

The Marines had just come from a party in their honor by former members of a rebel group that made a peace pact with them.

It was said that the food served the Marines was laced with medicine that made all of them groggy and easy targets on their way back to camp.

Twenty-one Marines, including the platoon leader, a Lt. Advincula, were killed in that treachery.

In retaliation, more than 80 Muslim men in the village, where the Marines were ambushed, either disappeared without a trace or were killed under mysterious circumstances.

For every Marine that was killed, three men suspected by the corps of staging the ambush, paid with their lives, according to a story that Marines tell among themselves in whisper.

***

The report that 12-year-old Mariannet Amper killed herself because of poverty has now been exposed as media sensationalism.

It now appears that she was raped by her own father who is now in the custody of the Davao City police.

The note about her supposedly unsent letter to "Wish Ko Lang," GMA-7's public service show, was just an assignment from her school which her classmates also wrote.

In that letter, Mariannet wrote that she wanted a new pair of shoes, a bag, a bicycle, and jobs for her father and mother.

In behalf of media, I say, mea culpa to yellow journalism!

METROBRIEFS

Woman rescued

A PREGNANT businesswoman who was forcibly locked inside her store in a public market for three days without food and water was rescued Thursday by operatives of the Northern Police District Intelligence Division in Malabon City. Chief Insp. Rogelio Ramos, chief of the NPD-DID, identified the victim as Clancy Atem. A certain Wilson Domingo Chua allegedly ordered security guards to lock Atem inside her shop in Panghulo Market Nov. 14 after the victim refused to recognize Chua's authority as market administrator. Charges of illegal detention will be filed against Chua and the security guards. *Nancy Carvajal*

Billiard death

UNIDENTIFIED gunmen rained bullets on a billiard hall in Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City at dawn yesterday, instantly killing a 32-year-old man who was playing pool, and injuring a 14-year-old boy. The Mandaluyong City police yesterday identified the victim as Allan Cabanganan, a construction worker who had just arrived from Quezon province. Witnesses said they heard six gunshots coming from outside a game house at 36 Welfareville Compound. Probers recovered five spent shells from an M-16 firearm from the scene. *Kristine L. Alave*

Scholastic book sale

SCHOLASTIC, the US publisher of the Harry Potter series, will have the Scholastic Book Fairs Christmas Warehouse Sale until tomorrow, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 70 C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City. Up to 70 percent off and as low as P20 for books, reference materials, manipulatives, educational toys, holiday gifts and more. Call 900-1539 or 628-4487.

Trike driver needs help

JUANITO Mata Jr. used to earn a living as a tricycle driver on a "boundary" basis. The 40-year-old native of Barangay Salomague, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, is now unable to support his family of six. He was diagnosed to be suffering from a chronic kidney disease and is undergoing hemodialysis two times a week at the Philippine General Hospital. His wife, Corazon, told the INQUIRER that not only the schooling of their children had taken a back seat, they were also asking for medical help from kind individuals so her husband can work again. Those who want to give medical or financial assistance to Mata can call 0916-3630629.

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INVITATION TO BID

The **Land Bank of the Philippines** and **LBP Leasing Corporation** invites interested parties to bid for the following properties on **CASH** and **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS:**

Item No.	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1	60% interest in a 100,000.00 sqm lot with cannery plant, warehouse, office bldg., staff/guest house and water supply system	Barrio Tamugan, Davao City	P 6,447,000
2	60% interest in various Machineries & Equipment on Cannery Plant	Barrio Tamugan, Davao City	P 6,159,080
3	498-sq.m res'l land w/ improvement	Carmel Avenue cor. Ma. Elena St., Carmel Subd. I, Bago Bantay, Q.C.	P 4,631,000
4	Parking Slot # 88-B3 (12.50 sq.m)	Cleveland Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	P 300,000
5	Parking Slot # 87-B3 (12.50 sq.m)	Cleveland Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	P 300,000
6	Parking Slot # 86-B3 (11.75 sq.m)	Cleveland Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	P 300,000
7	Parking Slot # 60-B3 (11.75 sq.m)	Cleveland Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	P 350,000
8	Parking Slot # 61-B3 (11.75 sq.m)	Cleveland Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	P 350,000
9	Parking Slot # 70-B3 (12.665 sq.m)	Cleveland Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	P 300,000
10	Parking Slot # 42-B3 (12.50 sq.m)	Washington Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	P 300,000
11	Parking Slot # 43-B3 (12.50 sq.m)	Washington Tower, Asia World City, Parañaque	P 300,000
12	Nissin Contact Freezer-Model BF-1000-WD	TP Marcelo Cmpd. Northbay Blvd., Navotas	P 294,000
13	Nissin Contact Freezer-Model BF-750-D	TP Marcelo Cmpd. Northbay Blvd., Navotas	P 258,000
14	Nissin Contact Freezer-Model BF-500-D	TP Marcelo Cmpd. Northbay Blvd., Navotas	P 236,000
15	1 unit System 88/Noritsu QSF V305	Bicutan, Taguig	P 612,800
Code 897	1 unit 1995 Mitsubishi Canter 34 seater	Metropolitan St., Makati	P 172,000
Code 593	1 unit 1995 Mitsubishi Canter 34 seater	Intramuros, Manila	P 180,800

For Items Nos. 1-14, sealed bids together with the 10% bid bond in the form of Cash or Manager's Check will be received by the Special Assets Department (SPAD), 30th Floor, Landbank Plaza, Malate, Manila on **December 5, 2007,** not later than **9:30 am.**

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be followed immediately by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The increase in the open bidding shall be in multiples of P10,000.00.**

The Bid Documents will be available at the Special Assets Dept. (c/o May or Tiffany) starting November 27, 2007.

The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on November 27, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the 30th Floor Conference Room, Landbank Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate.

For Item Nos. 15-17, public bidding will be held by LBP Leasing Corp., at its office at the 15th Floor, SSHG Law Center, No. 105 Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City. For inquiry & bidding forms, please contact Susan at tel no. 818-2200 loc 410.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties as well as the legal status of the title before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis. The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to Bank approval.

For more information, please visit or call the SPAD at telephone no. 551-2200 locals 2374, 2481, 7248, 2482, 7645.

Landbank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of Landbank shall be final and binding.

HEAD OFFICE COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

(PDI–November 17, 2007)

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Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on Dec. 5 , 2007, at 2:00 p.m., 12/F, Suite 5, Executive Lounge of the DBP Head Office, Sen.Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on **CASH BASIS:**

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (sq.m.)	LOCATION	Minimum Bid
REAL ESTATE **METRO MANILA**				
AM-RP- 49	Residential lot (TCT No.T-100570) with bldg. & imp.	253	No. 23 Sangumay St. corner Mariposa St., Manuela Subd., Phase III-A Pamplona, Las Pinas City	P 1,560,300.00
AM-ED- 50	Industrial lots (TCT Nos. N-171471, N 171472, N-171473, N-171475 and N-171476) with 17 bldgs of various sizes and of mix construction (total floor area of 28.1010 sq. m) mostly utilized as factories and warehouses.	36,015	EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	P 300,000,000.00
AM-ED-51	Industrial /residential lots (TCT Nos. N-171474 and N-171477) with 5 bldgs. of various sizes and of mix construction (total floor area of 3,279 sq.m.) mostly utilized as factories and warehouses.	2,400	Luskot Serrano Laktaw and Pedro Paterno Sts., Galas, Quezon City	P 19,832,000.00
BULACAN				
AM-ML-52	Residential lots (TCT Nos. T-125966, T-125967 and T-125947)	3,435	Bgy. Kaypian, San Jose del Monte City	P 636,500.00
CAVITE				
AM-RP-53	Residential lot (TCT No. 1182501)	400	Bgy. Zapang, Temate, Cavite .	P 3,280,000.00
PROVIDENT FUND				
PF-SM-01	Residential lot (TCT No. 267251)	240	Lot 7 Blk.4 Family Village, Panapaan, Bacoor, Cavite	P 600,000.00
PF-SM-02	Residential lot (TCT No. 29606)	298	Lot 4 Blk. 3 Sto Nino District, Pagadian City	P 430,000.00
PF-SM-03	House and lot (TCT No. T-1109644)	104	Redwood St., Acacia Homes, Bangkal, Dasmarinas, Cavite	P 364,000.00
PF-SM-04	House and lot (TCT No. C-379263)	177	Lot 14 Blk. 25 Vista Verde, North Ave., Phase 1-D, Vista Verde North Village, Caloocan City	P 635,000.00
PF-SM-05	Residential lot (TCT No. T-150452)	321	Lot 26 Blk. 1 Quezon's Place, Teoville West, San Dionisio, now BF Homes, Paranaque City	P 1,444,500.00
PF-SM-06	Residential lot (TCT No. T-657968) with bldg. and improvements	114	Lot 11 Blk. 5 Gemini St., Florence Ville Subd., Bo. Tagapo, Sta. Rosa Laguna	P 616,000.00
PF CHATTEL				
PF-SM-07	One (1) unit Honda City DST model 2006 4-door sedan, manual transmission, color Night Hawk Black, power steering, windows, lock and side mirrors		Parked at DBP Inner Court	P 510,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor (for Code starting with AM) and at PFU 7th floor (for Code starting with PF) DBP Head Office during office hours.
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566 or 818-9511 locals 2117/2159/2166 for Code starting with AM and local 3708 for Code starting with PF.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI–Nov. 16 & 17, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VIII, Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Fax No. (053)323-8601

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
For Procurement for Security Services in NFA Region VIII for 2008

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its Corporate Budget for 2008 intends to apply the sum **ELEVEN MILLION THIRTY THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY PESOS (P 11,030,760.00)** of being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Procurement of Security Services to be utilized in the different NFA Provincial Offices/Warehouses in Region VIII for Calendar Year 2008 in the following provinces with their Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), to wit:

Lot No.	NFA Prov. Office	No. of Security Guards	Approved Budget for the Contract	Bidding Fee
1	N. Leyte	24	P 3,394,080.00	P 7,000.00
2	So. Leyte	10	P 1,414,200.00	P 2,500.00
3	Biliran	4	P 565,680.00	P 2,000.00
4	W. Samar	9	P 1,272,760.00	P 2,500.00
5	N. Samar	19	P 2,686,980.00	P 6,000.00
6	E. Samar	12	P 1,697,040.00	P 3,000.00
	TOTAL	78	P 11,030,760.00	

The bidders may bid for as many lots as he is interested.

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders, who may bid any or all lots, upon payment to NFA Cashier of a non-refundable bidding fee.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (telephone number: (053)323-4240, fax number: (053)323-8601) and inspect the Bidding Documents at NFA, Pawing Palo, Leyte starting **November 20-28, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.**

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **December 4, 2007 @ 09:00 AM** at NFA Auditorium Lobby Pawing Palo, Leyte.

Bids & eligibility requirements must be delivered during the bid opening on **December 17, 2007 @ 09:00 AM at NFA Auditorium Lobby Pawing Palo, Leyte.** All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof: Cash or Cashier's Check or Manager's Check (Cashier's or Manager's Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank issued in Tacloban City) – One percent (1%); or Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand" – Two & a half percent (2.5%). Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO J. ADORABLE**
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI – November 17,2007)

Koreas reach ambitious reconciliation deal

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—North and South Korea reached an ambitious deal Friday to breathe fresh life into peace efforts—starting regular cross-border trains and new construction projects—amid concerns reconciliation could flounder if the South changes political course in next month's presidential vote.

The agreement between the prime ministers of the two sides was a fleshed-out version of a wide-ranging accord struck at an October summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

Seoul committed to start building shipyards and repairing a highway and a railroad in the impoverished North next year, in return for Pyongyang's agreement to begin regular cross-border cargo train service next month for the first time in half a century.

The North also agreed to turn the area around the Koreas' disputed western sea border into a "peace and cooperation zone" next year by establishing a joint fishing ground and a special economic zone on shore nearby.

Analysts said the agreements were positive, but raised concern they could face hurdles in implementation coming just months before President Roh's administration leaves office in February.

Conservative opposition candidates who take a more critical view of the North Korean regime are leading opinion polls ahead of the Dec. 19 presidential vote.

"Implementation is more important than an agreement," said Baek Seung-joo, a North Korea expert at Seoul's state-run Korea Institute for Defense Analyses. "We've had so many cases in the past where agreements were reached, but not kept."

Baek said the deal's fate depends on who will become the South's next president, how the North would view that new leader, and how the international standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear programs is resolved.

In the worst case, this week's agreement could even hurt ties between the two counties rather than improving them if a new conservative president tries to revise the deal, said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies.

"The agreement could rather deepen distrust unless carried out," said Yang.

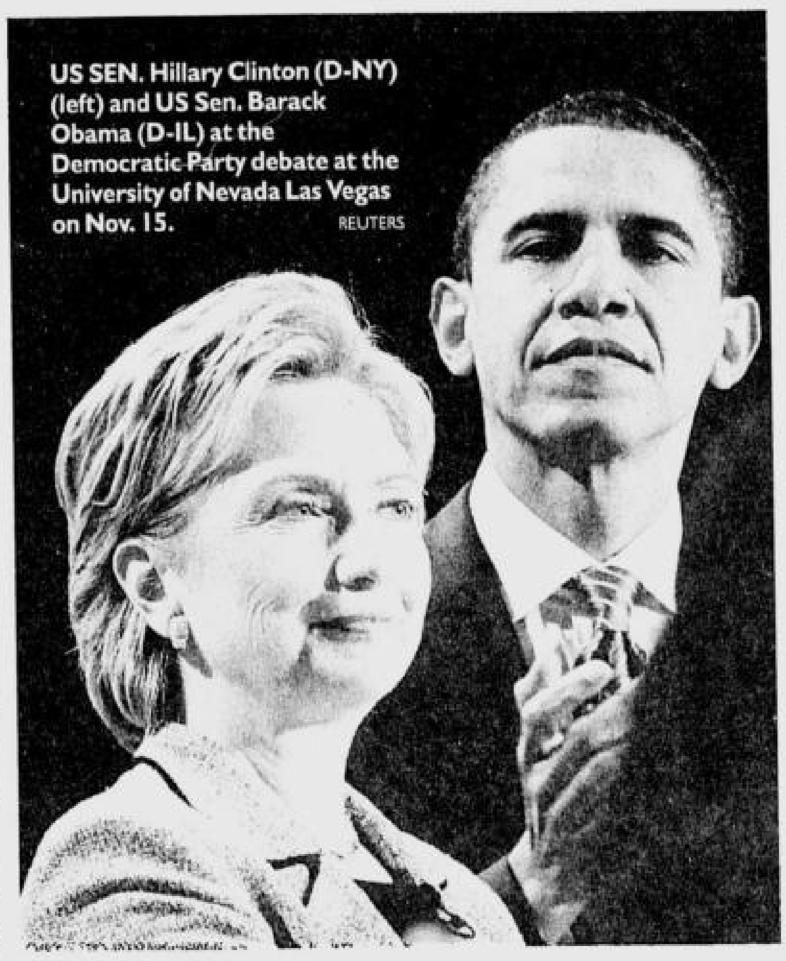
Since their first-ever summit in 2000, the Koreas have moved to set aside decades of animosity and dramatically increased economic ties to the point that the South is the North's No. 2 trading partner behind its communist ally China.

South Korean President Roh expressed satisfaction with Friday's agreement, saying economic cooperation is the "best means" to advance unification.

"Unless we realize an economically equal relationship, the road to unification cannot but be very slow," Roh told the North Korean delegation at a lunch he hosted in the presidential Blue House.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Il is firmly committed to carrying out the summit accord that he has said "should not end up an empty piece of paper," Prime Minister Kim Yong Il told Roh. *AP*

Clinton shores up lead in debate



US SEN. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) (left) and US Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) at the Democratic Party debate at the University of Nevada Las Vegas on Nov. 15. REUTERS

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—Hillary Clinton accused her Democratic White House rivals of "throwing mud" Thursday, apparently shoring up her status as front-runner in a testy debate, after a string of recent missteps.

Top challengers Barack Obama and John Edwards tried hard to inflict further damage on the former first lady's previously unchallenged campaign, but took sharp return blows themselves at the debate in gambling paradise Las Vegas.

"When somebody starts throwing mud at least we can hope it is accurate and not right out of the Republican playbook," Clinton said, joking she was wearing an asbestos pantsuit to ward off fiery attacks by her rivals.

And she also rejected claims that she had played the "gender card" after her aides had appeared to suggest that she had been attacked in a previous debate because she was a woman.

"I'm just trying to play the winning card ... I understand, very well, that people are not attacking me because I'm a woman; They're attacking me because I'm ahead."

The debate ramped up the heat in the Democratic race, 49 days before the critical leadoff party nominating contest, the fabled caucuses in Iowa, where the candidates are running neck-and-neck.

Obama, riding high after an electrifying speech to activists in Iowa on Saturday, tried to skewer Clinton in the debate's tense first exchange.

"What the American people are looking for right now is straight answers to tough questions, that is not what we have seen out of Senator Clinton," Obama charged.

Later, he charged Clinton, who leads national Democratic polls and key state surveys, with being deceptive, and accused her of sounding like a Republican candidate.

"This is the kind of thing I would expect from Mitt Romney and Rudy Giuliani where we start playing with numbers to make a point," he said, in an argument with her on retirement savings.

But Clinton, throughout the two-hour clash, stressed her experience, to suggest Obama was not properly prepared to serve in the Oval Office.

"It is important that we have a candidate that is tested and a president who is ready to lead from day one," she said, in the debate in the fast-growing western state of Nevada, which holds its own Democratic caucuses on Jan. 19.

Throughout the debate, Clinton appeared more relaxed than her previous showdown with her rivals, smiling and laughing frequently. Several times, Obama and another rival John Edwards elicited boos from the audience, when they went on the attack.

Costas Panagopoulos, of the Campaigns and Elections program at Fordham University, said Clinton appeared to have drawn a line under her shaky two weeks since the last debate in Philadelphia.

"Clearly, Senator Clinton came prepared for battle," he said. *AFP*

Ruling jolts even Saudis: 200 lashes for rape victim

JIDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA—A Saudi court on Tuesday more than doubled the number of lashes that a female rape victim was sentenced to last year after her lawyer appealed the original sentence. The decision, which many lawyers found shocking even by Saudi standards of justice, has provoked a rare public debate about the treatment of women here.

The victim's lawyer, Abdulrahman al-Lahem, a well-known human rights activist, drew the court's ire because of his strong public criticism of the handling of the case. He has called his client's conviction unjust and said the sentences of the seven men who raped her were too lenient.

He is also known for his past defense of critics of the monarchy.

The victim's name has not been released. She was 19 years old at the time of the assault.

Her case has been widely debated since the court sentenced her to 90 lashes a year ago for being in the same car as an unrelated man, even after it ruled that she had subsequently been raped. For a woman to be in seclusion with a man who is not her husband or a relative is a crime in Saudi Arabia.

Adding to the charged political nature of the case, the victim is a member of the kingdom's Shiite Muslim minority.

The young woman's offense was in meeting a former boyfriend, whom she had asked to return pictures he had of her because she was about to marry another man. The couple was sitting in a car when a group of seven men kidnapped them and raped them both, lawyers in the case told Arab News, a Saudi newspaper.

The woman and the former boyfriend were originally sentenced to 90 lashes each for being together in private, while the attackers received sentences ranging from 10 months to five years in prison, and 80 to 1,000 lashes each.

Lahem appealed the attackers' sentences, saying that they were too lenient and that the treatment of the victim was too harsh. In its new decision issued Tuesday, the court increased the victim's sentence to 200 lashes and six months in jail. It also increased the sentences of her attackers to prison terms of two to nine years.

The woman remains free for the time being and has not yet been lashed. *NYT*

Russian loophole offers Putin chance of third term

PUTIN AP

MOSCOW—RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin could run for reelection in next year's presidential vote if he resigns early to get around a ban on serving three consecutive terms, a lobbyist close to the Kremlin has said.

Putin has said he will step down next year and let someone else take over. His spokesperson said that has not changed. But a source with Kremlin links told Reuters the option of exploiting legal loopholes is being pushed by parts of his entourage.

Under that scenario, Putin could announce as early as this month that he is stepping down ahead of term. His prime minister, Viktor Zubkov, would become caretaker president and Putin would run in the scheduled March 2008 presidential vote.

The question of what Putin will do next is preoccupying Russians and foreign investors because he wields huge personal power in his vast, nuclear-armed country, many people see him as a guarantor of stability and he has no clear successor.

Western companies as well as foreign governments, for all their reservations about his democratic credentials, also see him as a "known figure" with whom they can deal.

"It is quite possible for Putin to run as a candidate for the presidency in the 2008 elections," Alexander Shokhin, the head of Russia's biggest business lobby, told Russia's Itogi magazine this week.

"And there is no need to change the constitution," he said. "Gaps remain in the law."

Russia's constitution states that "one and the same person cannot occupy the post of President of the Russian Federation for more than two consecutive terms."

Analysts have speculated Putin could sidestep this by making way for a new president and returning at the next election in 2012, or sooner if his successor does not serve a full term.

Another option is for him to step down but retain influence in another capacity, possibly as prime minister.

But the scenario outlined by Shokhin and others would allow Putin to return to his old job after an interval of just weeks.

A federal law on presidential elections states that a president who leaves office before the end of term "cannot be put forward as a candidate in elections called in connection with him ceasing to exercise his powers ahead of schedule."

This is where the loophole lies. The law contains no restriction on a president running in elections which were not called as a result of his leaving office early.

If Putin steps down after the date of the presidential vote is officially announced—this is expected to happen on Nov. 26—he will be taking part in a scheduled election.

"The task has been set to ensure a third term. From a number of options, one has been chosen that will use this loophole," said the source with links to the presidential administration.

But the source added: "Putin has not taken a final decision ... This is not being done by Putin but by his entourage. Putin himself is undecided."

A Dec. 2 parliamentary election, in which Putin is running as head of his United Russia party slate, could provide him with an opportunity to step down. *Reuters*

Cultural Center of the Philippines
SENTRONG PANGKULTURA NG PILIPINAS

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

Name of the Project: Hiring of a Game Developer for an Interactive Computer Game on Philippine Arts and Culture.

Approved Budget for Contract is PhP3,700,000.00

1 The Cultural Center of the Philippines, through its Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC"), intends to procure the services of a Game Developer (GD) for an Interactive Computer Game on Philippine Arts and Culture.

2 CCP now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent ("LOIs") from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for the services of Game Developer. Interested GDs must submit their LOIs on November 20, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., by hand, and secure the Eligibility Documents and Shortlisting Requirements therefrom.

Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents and Short Listing Requirements shall be on the date of the Opening of Eligibility Documents on November 28, 2007; 1:30 p.m. at the CCP Boardroom, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa. Only those found eligible shall be considered for short listing and only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.

3. The CCPBAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted a Letter of Intent and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A)

4. In accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 ("R.A. 9184"), bidding for the hiring of a GD will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures. Only bids from short listed GDs will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents to be obtained from the CCP. The contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification. The CCPBAC shall evaluate bids using the ***Quality Based Evaluation procedure (QBE).***

5. The complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the qualified bidders in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00) from the CCPBAC at the address given below from Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The deadline for submission of bids from the short listed GDs shall be on December 07, 2007; 1:30 p.m.

6 The CCP/CCPBAC reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bids, waive any formality in the bid requirements, to declare the bidding a failure, to annul the bidding process without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Government.

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel Nos. 632-832-3667 / 632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-5515960
Website, www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ARIEL S.R. YONZON
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Nov. 10 & 17, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
MIYAJI IRON WORKS CO. LTD.-MANILA BRANCH Unit 1609 Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Masamitsu Iwai Japanese	Project Manager
NO. 1 LION TRADING CORP. Unit 22 PC Eisenhower Condominium, 7 Eisenhower St., Greenhills, San Juan City	Youngsook Kim Korean	Marketing Manager
MIYAJI IRON WORKS CO. LTD.-MANILA BRANCH Unit 1609 Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Toshihiro Suzuki Japanese	Site Manager
MIYAJI IRON WORKS CO. LTD.-MANILA BRANCH Unit 1609 Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Shogo Kito Japanese	Site Manager
MIYAJI IRON WORKS CO. LTD.-MANILA BRANCH Unit 1609 Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Tomohiro Sampai Japanese	Construction Engineer
JUH CORPORATION 17/F World Center Condominium, 330 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Ruddy Indra Kondoy Indonesian	Indonesian-Speaking Customer Support Service Representative
JUH CORPORATION 17/F World Center Condominium, 330 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Dang Khoa Vu Vietnamese	Vietnamese Customer Support Service Representative
KOLARMY TECHNOLOGY INC. 6309 Vito Cruz Extension, San Antonio Village, Makati City	Myongki Kim Korean	Executive Operations Officer
KOLARMY TECHNOLOGY INC. 6309 Vito Cruz Extension, San Antonio Village, Makati City	Hyuk Jun Kim Korean	Assistant Marketing Manager
TAISEI PHIL. CONSTRUCTION, INC. 23/F Equitable Bank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Toshio Yamashita Japanese	Project Manager
BAYVIEW TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 43/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Qiwen Xing Chinese	Chinese Customer Support Associate
LEEKIE ENTERPRISES INC. 24/F Burgundy Corp. Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Rio Jusuf Indonesian	Indonesian Customer Support Staff
MEEJOO LATEX CORPORATION U-4 G & 2/F, 5 Salem International Commercial, Domestic Rd., Pasay City	Bong Youn Cho Korean	General Manager
CHINA CERTIFICATION & INSPECTION GROUP PHILIPPINES INC. 18 Lincoln St., West Greenhills, San Juan City	Yonghai Wang Chinese	General Manager
INTERNATIONAL RESOURCING SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES INC. Unit 1704 Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower, Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Gordon William James British	President
BESTFRIEND LEE TRADING INC. 26 Scout Tobias, South Triangle, Quezon City	Jongmi Kim (wife of LEE) Korean	Manager
JLSC WORLD VISION CENTER INC. 4396 Valdez St., Poblacion, Makati City	Dongjin Kim Korean	Manager
MBMI RESOURCES PHILIPPINES, INC. S-409 DHI Bldg. 2, Lapu-lapu, Magallanes Ave., Makati City	Frank Anthony Pastorino American	Vice President for Operations

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI—November 17, 2007)

Bhutto freed; caretaker gov't sworn in

CARETAKER PM Soomro REUTERS

ISLAMABAD—PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF swore in a new caretaker government Friday to steer emergency-ruled Pakistan toward elections, hours after former premier Benazir Bhutto was freed from house arrest.

The oath-taking ceremony came as a senior US official headed for Islamabad to press for an end to the state of emergency, which the opposition says will make the polls due by early January an unfair sham.

Military ruler Musharraf hailed the previous government for stabilizing Pakistan as he swore in the interim setup, led by caretaker premier and close ally Mohammedmian Soomro.

"Today we are creating history because I think never has Pakistan seen such a smooth transition of government," Musharraf, dressed in a traditional black tunic instead of his army uniform, said at the ceremony.

Parliament dissolved at midnight on Thursday after completing a five-year term for the first time in the nuclear-armed nation's turbulent history.

"I take pride in the fact that, being a man in uniform, I introduced the essence of democracy," he added.

Musharraf has promised legislative elections by Jan. 9, but opposition leaders are considering a boycott and there is growing international anger at his refusal to end the state of emergency he imposed on Nov. 3.

Hours earlier, authorities withdrew a seven-day detention order on Bhutto, who has been holed up behind barbed wire at an aide's house in Lahore since Tuesday.

"The detention order has been withdrawn but normal police security will stay with her," said Khusro Pervaiz, home secretary of Punjab province, adding that Bhutto was detained to protect her from the threat of suicide bombings.

A leading member of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party said security forces were still around the house.

"We are free from detention but the barbed wire and police are still out there," Sen. Safdar Abbasi said. *AFP*

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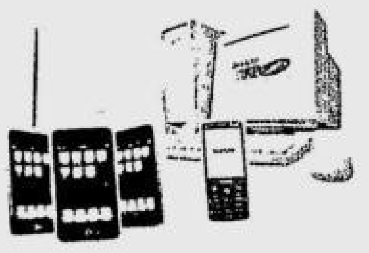

SMART MONEY Prize Overload

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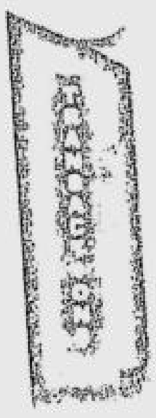

Promo period : November 15, 2007 – January 31, 2008. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5656, series of 2007.

SMART THE POWER TO LEAD

WHAT'S INSIDE

Reyes ousts Orcollo; RP teener topples big guns / A25

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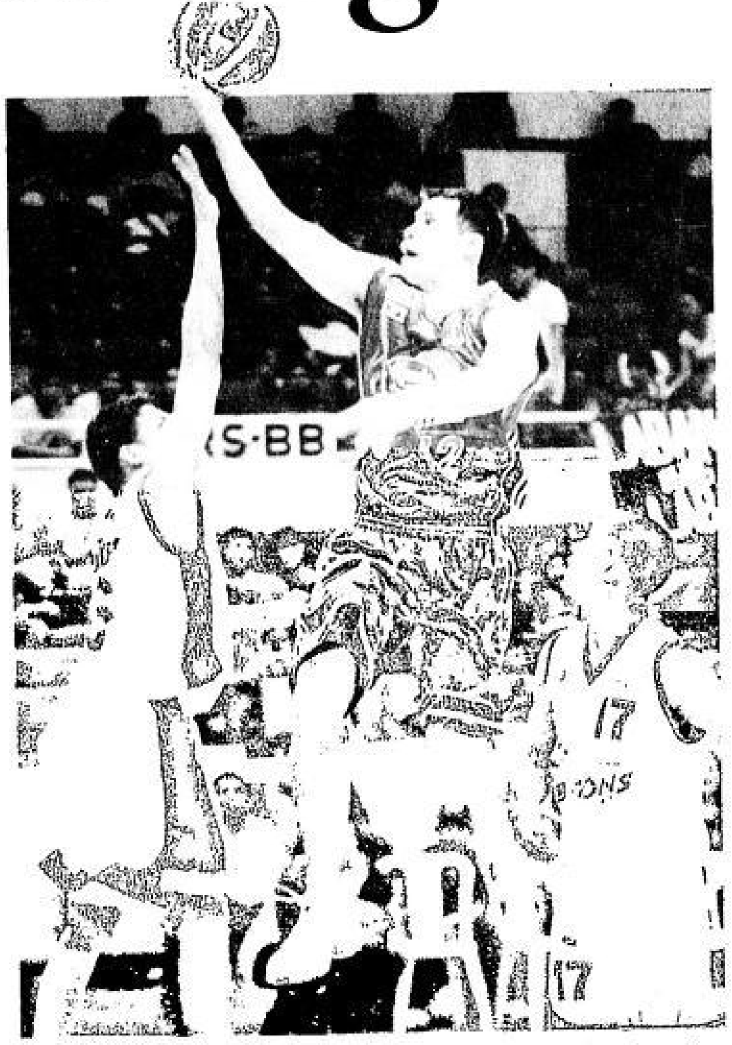
Bonds faces 30 years for perjury /A26

Harbour fights to regain stride



MAGNOLIA'S Danny Seigle pierces Welcoat's defense for a layup in yesterday's PBA game won by the Dragons, 95-93, at the Cuneta Astrodome. *Story in Late Sports on A18.* RYAN LIM

By Jasmine W. Payo

HARBOUR CENTRE SETS OUT TO regain momentum versus San Mig Coffee, while Mail and More fights to move further up against Bacchus Energy Drink in today's PBL action.

Still smarting from their first loss, Batang Pier will vie to keep second spot in the V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup at 2 p.m. at The Arena in San Juan.

Mail and More coach Allan Gregorio, meanwhile, said he's confident about his Comets' 4 p.m. assignment after they managed to log two straight victories following a dismal 0-3 start.

"We are getting better," said Gregorio. "We are taking things one game at a time and not thinking of our position in the standings."

The Comets, bannered by Khiel Misa and Marcy Arellano, have hit their stride the past two weeks with triumphs over Toyota Balintawak, 81-74, and Pharex, 73-64.

"Our first three losses, we can attribute to the team not having jelled yet," said Gregorio.

Batang Pier continued to draw consistent performances from Fil-Am guard Solomon Mercado, TY Tang and Rico Maierhofer, but unfortunately got tripped by Hapee which snapped their four-game winning run by mere a bucket, 77-76, last Saturday.

The loss shoved the three-time champions down to second at 4-1, behind the Complete Protectors, the only unbeaten squad after five assignments.

HARBOUR/ A24

THUNDERBIRD
PATAS • MAGALING • MARANGAL
BAKBAKAN
NATIONAL 10-STAG DERBY 2007
SINO ANG MAG-UUWI NG CHAMPIONSHIP BELT?
CHAMPION
GBA BBC RGBA AGBA GPGBI UBGBA ABONG LAGBA BIGBA
UNIGBA CVBA GFBAN ZGBA VIGBA EVGBA NGBA SGBA ZNGBA GBAB PAGBA MIGBA
SEMIFINALS
NOV 10 - MAKATI COL
- TUAO MEGA COCKPIT, CAGAYAN
- AQUINO COL., DAVAO
NOV 13 - ARANETA COL
NOV 14 - PASIG SQUARE
NOV 15 - ARANETA COL
NOV 16 - MABUHAY COCKPIT, PAMPANGA
- TALISAY SPORTS COMPLEX, CEBU

FINALS
NOV 16 - MAKATI COL
NOV 18 - PASIG SQUARE
NOV 20 - ARANETA COL
NOV 22 - ARANETA COL
NOV 24 - MAKATI COL
NOV 26 - MAKATI COL
NOV 27 - ARANETA COL

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Lascuña, Pagunsan in joint 39th

HONG KONG—TONY LASCUÑA fired a 69 and Juvic Pagunsan a 67 yesterday and stood as the leading Filipino performers after the second round of the UBS Hong Kong Open at the Hong Kong Golf Club in Fan Ling.

Pagunsan shot five birdies while Lascuña made three as they both totaled 137, nine strokes off Sweden's Robert Karlsson, good for 39th spot.

Veteran Frankie Miñoza lay in 51st place along with 11 others after a second straight 69 while Gerald Rosales made up for his first-round 73 with a 66 to jump to joint 63rd from 119th.

Karlsson blasted his second straight six-under-par 64 for a four-stroke lead over Spaniard Miguel Angel Jimenez, who is alone in second spot after a 67.

Karlsson, who finished runner-up in Portugal last month, emulated his opening round performance, enjoying a bogey-free second round with six birdies on the way to a two-day total of 12-under-par 128.

Two-time Asian No. 1 Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand matched American Bryan Saltus' 65 and the pair shared third place, five strokes off the pace.

Canadian star Mike Weir also rose to joint third after a 64 in the $2.25-million event co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour.

"It is great to be in this position and I have played really well over the first two days," said Karlsson.

China's top golfer Liang Wenchong, who leads the Asian Tour's UBS Order of Merit race, improved with a 66 and tied for 12th place alongside overnight leader KJ Choi, who slipped with a 72. *Asian Tour News*

Pucay, Casas 1 shot off Thai leader

HO CHI MINH CITY—THAILAND'S NAKUL Vichitryuthasastr moved one stroke clear of Filipinos Mars Pucay and Felix Casas after the third round of the Mercedes-Benz Championship Vietnam Friday.

Nakul fired a one-under-par 71 at the Vietnam Golf and Country Club in the fourth leg of the Asean Golf Tour.

Pucay, joint leader at the start of the day with Nakul, shot a 72 while Casas came in with a 68.

A stroke further back are Pijit Petchakasem of Thailand and Malaysian Khor Kheng Hwai.

The 24-year-old Nakul leads the field with a four-under-par 212.

Breathing down his neck are the experienced Pucay and Casas, who have been competing at the professional level in Asia for a decade.

"That was my second level-par round. It's not great, but I am definitely in with a chance," said Pucay. *AFP*

The leading third round scores:

212—Nakul Vichitryuthasastr (THA) 70-71-71; 213—**Mars Pucay (PHI) 69-72-72, Felix Casas (PHI) 71-74-68**; 214—Pijit Petchakasem (THA) 70-75-69, Khor Kheng Hwai (MAS) 71-75-68; 215—**Jay Bayron (PHI-a) 69-75-71**; 216—Sirapong Maitreeyuenyong (THA) 73-72-71, Pol Kemmarat (THA) 69-75-72; 217—Hyunh Van Son (VIE-a) 69-74-74, Pompong Phatlum (THA) 77-72-68.

Mt. Makiling girl sinks 'em

Tiny tanker splashes way to 4 golds

By June Navarro

LOS BANOS—A WISPY 11-year-old girl from mythical Mt. Makiling, seeing action in her first big tournament, scored a fairy-tale win yesterday by scooping up four swimming gold medals in the 2nd Philippine Olympic Festival national championships here.

Tiny Ana Nicole Tan practically carried the entire Laguna delegation on her young shoulders to the amazement of the sizeable crowd at the world-class Trace Aquatics Center here with sparkling wins in the 100-meter freestyle, 100m backstroke and 200m individual medley for 11-year-old girls.

Standing barely four feet, the Grade V student from the Morning Star Montessori-Los Baños also anchored the Laguna tankers to a win in the 200m freestyle relay that catapulted the province to third overall.

"This is my first time to join a tournament as big as this," the lone child of a Department of Labor and Employment official said in Filipino.

Tan defeated provincemate Ariana Herranz in the 100m backstroke after clocking one minute and 19.64 seconds. Herranz registered 1:23.60 for the silver and Negros Oriental's Ana Danie Paraiso checked in at 1:24.46 for bronze.

Tan clocked one minute and 10.74 seconds in downing Thea Mar Caluma (1:11.86) and Herranz (1:12.92) in the 100m free while posting a time of two minutes and 54.70 seconds in the 200m IM.

Quezon City, Iloilo City and Negros Occidental also relied on their quadruple gold-medalists to keep pace with overall leader Manila.

Louise Sarmiento ruled the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 100m backstroke and 200m IM for girls 17 and over while 12-year-old Jose Gio Palencia contributed two more (50m free and 100m free) in his division for the QC tankers.

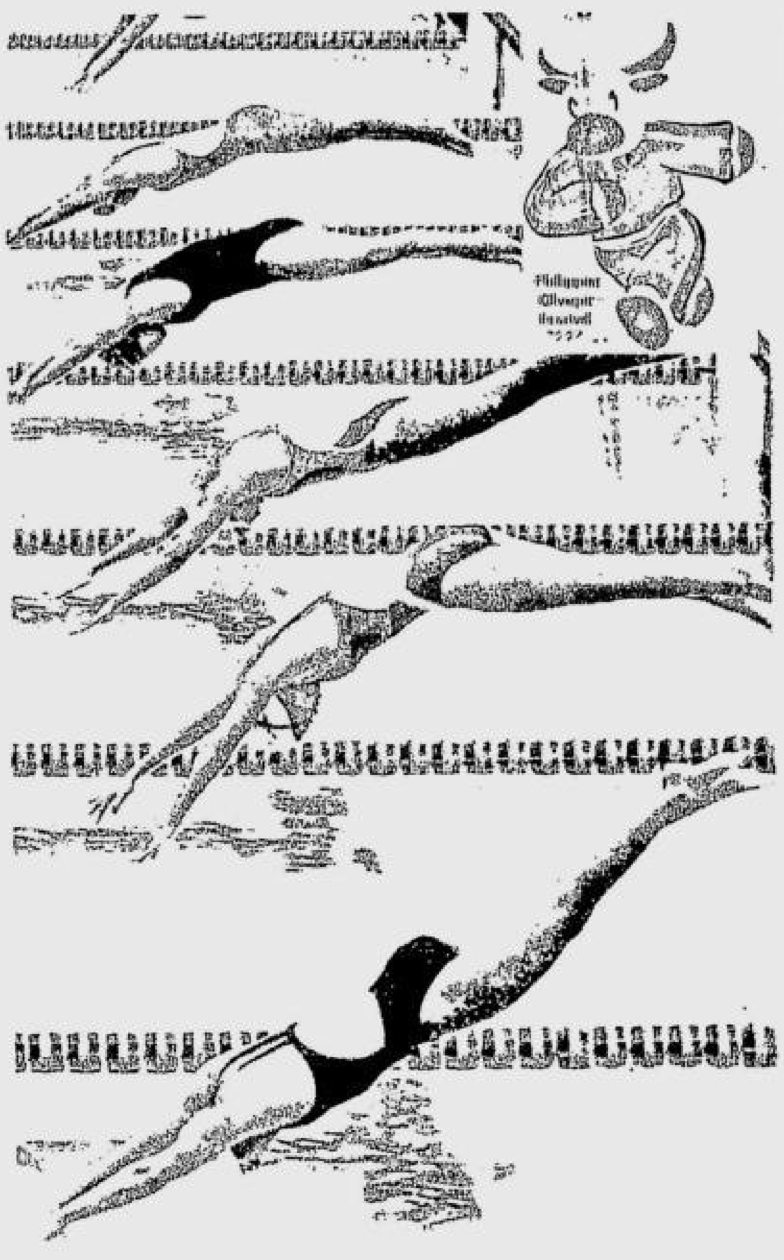
Kiefer Ticao, 18, pocketed the golds in the 100m free, 100m back, 400m IM and 200m IM to put Iloilo City on the medal standings while Bacolod's Krestia Angela Lacson topped the 200m IM, 400m IM, 100m and 50m free.

"My wish to become a part of the national team has been granted," said Ticao, who will transfer to Trace college next year as a member of the national training pool.

Manila's 12 gold medals for the day in athletics dislodged Quezon City from the top.

Manila now has 20 golds, 10 silvers and nine bronzes, while Quezon City has a 19-18-11 collection. Laguna, at third, is in the thick of the fight with 16 golds, 18 silvers and 15 bronzes, thanks to tiny Ana Nicole.

Medal Tally	G	S	B
Manila	20	10	9
Quezon City	19	18	11
Laguna	16	18	15
Lipa City	11	10	8
GenSan	8	8	6
Baguio	7	7	4
Marikina	7	3	9
Negros Occ	6	5	4
Iloilo City	6	1	2
Zamboanga	7	3	8
Cavite	4	11	12
Iloilo Prov	4	11	17
Naga	4	4	3
Bulacan	4	1	3
Davao Norte	4	1	2
C. De Oro	3	2	5
La Union	3	2	5
Pangasinan	3	2	3
Valenzuela	3	2	1
Capiz	3	1	0
Pasig City	2	6	7
Rizal	2	4	4
Antique	2	2	2
Angeles City	2	1	4
Lucena	2	1	2
Batangas	1	2	0
Misamis Or.	1	1	1
Cam. Sur	1	0	1
Muntinlupa	1	0	0
San Juan	0	2	3
Taguig	0	2	2
Pasay	0	2	2
Koronadal	0	1	4
Malabon	0	1	2
Pateros	0	0	3
Nueva Ecija	0	0	1



SWIMMERS vie in the 13-14 girls' 50-meter freestyle won by Bacolod's Angela Lacson at the Trace Aquatics Center, Los Baños. RAFFY LERMA

Harbour fights to . . .

From page A23

And the Coffee Kings are expected to give Batang Pier another tough challenge with Bonbon Custodio, NCAA Most Valuable Player Kelvin dela Peña and veteran Al Magpayo leading the offensive charge.

Over at the Bacchus camp, coach Lawrence Chongson still couldn't find the winning combination for his Raiders despite the steady game of forward Hans Thiele.

The Raiders absorbed their fifth straight setback after a disappointing overtime loss to Pharex, 79-76, last Thursday.

SPORTSWATCH

Sharp Korean tandem gains Holcim ITF tennis semifinals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A PAIR OF FEISTY KOREANS THREATEN TO reduce the Holcim ITF women's tennis tournament into a tale of two Kims yesterday after drubbing their respective rivals and moving into the semifinals at the Manila Polo Club's covered shellcourts.

Qualifiers Kim Hae-sung and Kim Jung-eun repulsed Indonesia's Vivien Silfany-Tony, 6-3, 6-2, and sixth seed Thai Noppawan Lertcheewakarn, 6-4, 6-1, respectively.

Hae-sung will take on fifth-seed Chang Kai-chen of Chinese Taipei, who overcame Korean Jeong Yoon-young, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Jun-Eun next faces seventh-seeded Swiss Nicole Riner, who handily defeated China's Qiu Sisi, 6-3, 6-1.

Both armed with powerful forehands and solid determination, the Koreans will still face an uphill battle in today's semifinals which starts at 12 noon.

UGBA stagfest: 100 fights up

MORE THAN 100 FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN the UGBA Heritage Cup National 9-Stag Derby which gets going today at the San Juan Coliseum.

A total of 19 cockers have so far posted three straight wins in the series of 3-stag eliminations of the derby backed by Sagupaan Superfeeds Complexor 3000.

The remaining Metro Manila eliminations unfurl on Nov. 24, 26 and 28 at SJC.

For inquiries, call Ugba at 0920-5851940.

Big Pasig derbies slated

BIG COCKFIGHTING EVENTS RETURN TO the Pasig Square Garden starting tomorrow via the NFGB National Bakbakan 10-Stag Derby championship round.

Seeing action tomorrow are participants who scored 4 and 4.5 points in the semifinals staged at PSG and Araneta Coliseum.

According to National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders president Ricoy Palmares Jr., those who will score a total of 8.5 points may still emerge as champion.

Meanwhile, the PSG management also presents the Cock Season Opener 4-cock derby" on Nov. 23, 28 and 30.

Highlands ladies virtual WGAP champs

By Jong Arcano
Inquirer Golf Monthly editor

IT'S ANOTHER BIG SWEEP FOR TAGAYTAY Highlands.

The Highlands ladies pounced on the disqualification of Sta. Elena in Tuesday's leg played at The Country Club in Canlubang, Laguna, to win all of its four matches for the second straight week and virtually end its search for a WGAP Cup crown.

Fresh off their 4-0 victory in the skirmishes among Class B and Class C players last week at the Orchard's Player course in Dasmariñas, Cavite, the Highlands ladies got an automatic win through the pair of Totelle Dimson and Veronica Veloso when the entire Sta. Elena squad was DQd for late submission of entries.

Hedy See and Maripaz Domingo, Karen Buenaventura and Mely Leyeza, Maline Flores and Rosalie Heo completed the Highlands sweep with abbreviated victories in the aggregate match play format among pairs made up of Class A and Class B entries.

Tagaytay raised its total to 8 points and, with a hefty 4-point lead over Valley and Alabang, will need just a draw in its last four matches to lift the WGAP Cup when the series winds up next week at Ayala Greenfields.

The complete WGAP Cup results is available at pilipinasgolf.com, the joint website of INQUIRER Golf and Golf Digest Philippines.

Alabang scored 2.5 points on two wins and a draw while Valley won two matches to tie for second at 4 points. Sta. Elena got stuck at 2.5 with Southwoods dead-last with 1.5.

Alabang drew wins from Lorna Tabuena-Videlyn Torralba and Christine Naidoo-Vivian Chua while Tricia Maclang and Carol Nielsen salvaged a draw.

Valley also kept its bid alive through Marvi Monsalve-Belinda del Rosario and Daniela Uy-Sylvia Carpio.

"I worked out the possible pairings over and over again to get the best winning combination," Highlands captain of the day, Dionne Cu, said. "All our teams were never down. It was up and up all the way."

The results:

1. Highlands (Hedy See and Maripaz Domingo) defeated Alabang (Tina Gonzales and Lolit Arguelles) 6 & 5
2. Highlands (Karen Buenaventura and Mely Leyeza) defeated Valley (Lin Mangulabnan and Imelda Lerma) 7 & 6
3. Highlands (Totelle Dimson and Veronica Veloso) defeated Sta. Elena (Rio Co and Nancy Ortiga)
4. Highlands (Maline Flores and Rosalie Heo) defeated Southwoods (Claire Ong and Nini Samaniego) 5 & 4
5. Alabang (Lorna Tabuena and Videlyn Torralba) defeated Sta. Elena (Alice Jose and Ayami Morihiro)
6. Southwoods (Beachie Abiera and Sheila Robles) defeated Sta. Elena (Vinice Godio and Olive Reyes)
7. Valley (Marvi Monsalve and Belinda del Rosario) defeated Sta. Elena (Candice Yulo and Tami Leung)
8. Valley (Daniela Uy and Sylvia Carpio) defeated Southwoods (Claudine Garcia and Belle Villanueva) 4 & 3
9. Southwoods (Sandy Velhagen and Tere Arevalo) drew with Alabang (Tricia Maclang and Carol Nielsen)
10. Alabang (Christine Naidoo and Vivian Chua) defeated Valley (Inez del Rosario and Alice Scarella) 7 & 6

UV parades 6-11 Fil-Am today; Archers out of it

GAME TODAY *(The Arena, San Juan)*
12 p.m.—Univ. of Visayas vs Lyceum

By Jasmine Payo

GREG SLAUGHTER DEBUTS IN THE Manila cage scene as the 6-foot-11 Fil-Am tries to lead the University of the Visayas Lancers against the Lyceum Pirates for the last quarterfinal berth in the Fil-Oil/Flying V National Collegiate Champions League today at The Arena in San Juan.

"He's a good defender," said Lancers coach Boy Cabahug of the rookie center, whose mother Emma Fuentes traces her roots in Cebu. "He has a nice soft touch from outside."

The Lancers, who also have 6-foot-7 Rino Berame at their disposal, are favored to advance to the Round of Eight.

"We don't have an idea how Lyceum plays, but we're ready," said Cabahug.

The winner in today's final elimination game will go up against the University of Mindanao Wildcats at the start of the quarterfinals on Monday.

Back-to-back NCAA champions San Beda Red Lions then tangle with 2006 UAAP titlist Santo Tomas Tigers.

The Wildcats won by default over reigning UAAP champions La Salle Green Archers on Thursday.

La Salle begged off from the tournament but organizers said the schedule had already been made.

The Far Eastern Tamaraws and the STI Olympians clash on Wednesday, while the Ateneo Eagles collide with the Jose Rizal Bombers to wrap up the quarterfinal round.

With a report from June Navarro

ATENEO'S Michael Joseph Nieto drives off La Salle's Miguel Lanot in the Milo-sponsored BEST Center SBP NCR finals recently. The country's brightest young cagers converge in Iloilo City today and tomorrow to dispute top honors in the national finals of the 22nd BEST Center SBP-Passerelle tournament at the Iloilo Sports Complex in Iloilo City.

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS SERVICE COMMAND
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
GHQ & HSC PROPERTY DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines through the General Headquarters and Headquarters Service Command invites all interested parties to submit sealed proposals for the sale of Two (2) Lots of Material Properties located at Disposal Yard Supply Unit (Provisional), GHQ & HSC, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City on 'AS IS, WHERE IS' basis. The Pre-Bidding Conference will be conducted on November 27, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. Final Pre-Bidding Conference will be on 03 December 2007 at 2:00 P.M. and, the Actual Public Bidding will be conducted on 06 December at 2:00 PM. All Conferences will be held at the Daza Park Pavilion, GHQ & HSC, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
1	One (1) lot	CV-001-07 One Hundred Twenty Three (123) Assorted Salvaged / Junk Vehicles	Disposal Yard, SU(P)
2.	One (1) lot	CV-002-07 One Lot of Assorted Scrap and residue From QM, Engineer, Signal, Ordnance, Medical and Dental Items estimated weight of 20 tons	Disposal Yard, SU(P)

The above Unserviceable equipment and scrap materials may be inspected at the Supply Unit (P), GHQ & HSC, CGEA, QC during office hours starting after the Pre-Bidding Conference on 27 November 2007. For Official Bid Forms and inquiries, please refer to the Mr. Marlon U Bullong, SAO, Unserviceable Properties and Assistant Chief, Property Reutilization and Disposal Division, SU(P), GHQ & HSC at Office No. 913-9583 or 911-6001 local 4433 / 4435 and / or Mobile Phone No. CP No. 09174007972.

Sealed Bids shall be accompanied by a refundable cash bid securities equivalent to 10% of the total amount of bid. Manager, Cashier or Certified Cheques shall be considered and accepted as Cash.

The AFP through the GHQ and HSC Property Disposal Committee reserves (1) the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defect/s or informality of the bids received, (2) to accept the bid most advantageous to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, particularly the AFP Modernization Program and (3) to recommend the award to the highest and most complying winning bidder, subject to CSAFP's approval as recommended by the GHQ & HSC Disposal Committee. CSAFP approval shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) COL FLAVIANO M VALDEHUEZA JR PAF (GSC)
Chairman, GHQ & HSC Disposal Committee

(PDI – November 16, 17 & 18 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR
MUNICIPALITY OF QUIRINO

INVITATION TO BID

The Municipality of Quirino Ilocos Sur invites sealed bids for the construction of:

	PROPOSED PROJECT/LOCATION	ABC
1.	Concreting of Lagpat Pathway Poblacion Quirino Ilocos Sur	P 247,873.11
2.	Concreting & Improvement of Sudae St. Poblacion Quirino Ilocos Sur	P 417,724.45
3.	Concreting of Dagiwan Road Daginan, Poblacion Quirino Ilocos Sur	P 426,831.43
4.	Installation of Ceiling of Municipal Hall Quirino Ilocos Sur	P 242,655.75

Bidding documents may be purchased starting November 19, 2007 @ the BAC Secretariat @ Mayor's Office Quirino Ilocos Sur upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TWO THOUSAND PESOS (2,000.00) for each set.

Deadline of submission of intent shall be on November 25, 2007, and opening of Bids shall be on December 3, 2007, @ exactly 10:00 a.m. in the morning @ the S.B. session hall Quirino Ilocos Sur.

Bid shall be valid 90 days after Bid Opening I shall be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 2.5% of the ABC in a form of cash, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered @ the BAC secretariat on or before 10:00 a.m. December 3, 2007 at which time they will be opened in the presence of bidders who wish to attend.

BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids without offering any reason.

(Sgd.) ENGR. JOSEFINO L. MANAGDAG
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 17, 2007)

Reyes ousts Orcollo; RP teener topples big guns

By Marlon Bernardino, *Contributor*

DUMAGUETE CITY—EFREN "BATA" REYES flashed vintage form to oust compatriot Dennis Orcollo, 9-3, with a near-perfect game Thursday night and lead the Filipino charge in the Negros Oriental International 9-Ball Championships at the Dumaguete Convention Center here.

After winning the lag, the 53-year-old Reyes, top player of Puyat Sports, blitzed to an early 6-1 lead and was never threatened in the race-to-9, alternate break match.

In a magnificent, if anti-climactic wind-up, Reyes, who advanced from the losers' bracket, watched Orcollo suffer a dry break in the 12th rack before clearing up for a 9-3 win.

The tournament features some of the world's best, including a total of nine World Pool champions headed by Reyes, Alex Pagulayan, Ronnie Alcano, Johnny Archer of the United States, Ralf Souquet and Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, Wu Chia-ching of Chinese Taipei, Kunihiko Takahashi of Japan and Mika Immonen of Finland.

Reyes suffered a lone scratch in the 11th rack that gave Orcollo a chance to slice the lead at 8-3.

Sharing the limelight with Reyes was teener Jech-Jech Limen of Negros Billiard Stable who scored stunning upsets over heavyweights Naoyuki Oi of Japan, 9-5, and Wu, 9-3.

The tournament winner pockets $20,000 with the runner-up getting $10,000. The losing semifinalists receive $5,000 each.

EFREN "Bata" Reyes lines his shot against Dennis Orcollo in yesterday's featured match.

European No.1 Konstantin Stepanov of Russia disposed of 2006 WPC champ Alcano, 9-2, in the losers' side, before scoring a come-from-behind 9-7 victory over Francisco "Django" Bustamante.

The 43-year-old Bustamante, who beat Reyes, 9-2, in the opening round last Wednesday, got a comfortable 7-3 lead but got stuck at 7 racks with two unforced error.

The matches will be aired over Solar Sports Nov. 22-29.

Tigresses, Lady Falcons thwart rivals

By Romina S. Austria

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS AND SAN Sebastian College held on to the lead with victories over their respective rivals yesterday at the start of the semifinal round of the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

UST labored through five sets before subduing Adamson University, 22-25, 25-18, 17-25, 26-24, 15-10, while San Sebastian had an easier time disposing of Ateneo, 25-21, 25-17, 25-19, as they improved their records to 7-1.

Ateneo is still in third spot at 5-3 while Adamson remained in fourth place at 4-4.

The Tigresses, the first conference champions, went to Venus Bernal, Mary Jean Balse and guest player Suzanne Gonzales, who combined for 68 points.

San Sebastian's Thai import Jaroensri Bualee outduelled fellow Thai Lithawat Kesinee anew, making 32 while the Ateneo reinforcement was held to just 15 points.

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC	7	1
UST	7	1
Ateneo	5	3
Adamson	4	4
La Salle	3	4

GAMES TOMORROW
(The Arena)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson
5 p.m.—La Salle vs Santo Tomas

Top young karters in crucial battles

THE COUNTRY'S UP-AND-COMING KARTERS gear up for their most crucial battle today in the championship round of the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit in Cavite.

JeT Racing skipper Javi Benitez and Tuason Racing-R2R karter Joey Orduna will have their hands full against equally talented rivals.

The 13-year-old Benitez, who leads the race for the ROK Junior crown with 415 points, expects a tough battle against Tuason Racing-R2R's Roby Benito and Juha Turalba, as well as Cebu Racing Group's Patrick Gandionco.

Benito is second with 377 while Gandionco, who won the last leg at Boomland, and Turalba closely trails with 349 and 348, respectively.

Orduna holds sway in the Mini-ROK class where he leads with 468 points. But his title bid remains at risk with Tonyo Carcel of the Cebu Racing Group and Franco Reyes of JeT Racing right behind with 394 and 348, respectively.

Sabal tipped to regain Milo crown

CRESENCIANO SABAL IS HEAVILY FAVORED TO regain the Milo Marathon crown he won two years ago when the 31st edition of the foot race holds its grand finals tomorrow starting at the Quirino Grandstand.

Sabal, who set a course record of two hours, 21 minutes and 33 seconds in 2005, failed to defend his title last year when he suffered muscle cramps halfway in the 42.195-kilometer race.

Sabal faces lighter competition with the absence of veteran Eduardo Buenavista and 2006 winner Julius Sermona.

Buenavista erased Sabal's record during the Metro Manila elimination race last July 22 with a clocking of 2:18:53. But he and Sermona will miss this year's preparation for the 24th SEA Games next month.

Fellow SEA Games bets Allan Ballester, Roy Vence and two-time women's champion Jho-An Banayag will likewise skip Sunday's race.

Sabal will most likely encounter stiff challenge from Rodolfo Tacadino, Bernardo Desamito, Mamerto Corpuz, Rogelio Sarmiento, Rolando Piamonte, Reynaldo Delos Reyes, Crifrankreadel Indapan, Jerry Lindawan, Juniel Languido and Abraham Barcarse Jr.

The distaff side will be a tight race among 2004 champion Estela Mamac-Diaz, Ailene Tolentino, Flordeliza Carreon, Maricel Maquilan, Ellen Tolentino, Sealand Agana, Merlita Arias and Cecile Faith Topia.

Trophies and more than P700,000 in prize money will be given away, including P75,000 each for the marathon king and queen.

FITNESS guru Jim Saret (center), Milo Marathon national race organizer Rudy Biscocho and Nestle AVP and Milo executive for Sports Events Pat Gocong join forces to show marathon finalists the proper way of running, avoiding injuries and developing speed during the carbo-loading party at the North Greenhills Clubhouse Thursday night.

Marho Breeders Cup dangles P7M

A PRIZE POT OF MORE THAN P7 MILLION is at stake when local horse racing's finest horses vie in the 12th Metropolitan Association of the Race Horse Owners, Inc. (Marho) Breeders' Cup Championship Day derbies this Sunday at Santa Ana Park.

Six divisional races are on tap with the P2 million, 2,050-meter San Miguel Classic for older horses the program's centerpiece race.

Empire King, the multititled horse, leads the San Miguel field.

The 3YO and Juvenile races and a Sprint Race will also be held during the festival.

The Smart 3YO Colts race will be disputed over the mile with former juvenile champion EJ's Magic tipped as the favorite over six others.

In the 3YO Fillies race, a grudge match between Es Twenty Six and Treasured Ack is expected, also over 1,600 meters, with the winner going home with P1 million.

The Juvenile races over 1,500 meters carry prize money of P1 million each. *M.R. Castillo*

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SPORTS

A-Rod, Yanks discussing $275-million deal

NEW YORK—ALEX RODRIGUEZ AND THE NEW YORK YANKEES HAVE agreed to the outline of a record $275 million, 10-year contract. The deal would potentially allow him to earn millions more if he sets career homerun records. *AP*

Beckham returns to England

VIENNA, AUSTRIA—DAVID BECKHAM WILL RETURN TO THE ENGLAND team for its friendly against Austria on Friday after a knee injury. It will be the LA Galaxy star's 98th international match for England, which is almost certain to miss out on Euro 2008 if Russia wins at Israel on Saturday. *AP*

Bonds faces 30 years for perjury

SAN FRANCISCO—BARRY Bonds, Major League Baseball's home run king, was indicted for perjury and obstruction of justice on Thursday and could go to prison instead of the Hall of Fame for telling a federal grand jury he did not knowingly use performance-enhancing drugs.

The indictment, culminating a four-year investigation into doping by elite U.S. athletes, charged Bonds with four counts of perjury and one of obstruction of justice. If convicted, he could be sentenced to a maximum of 30 years in prison.

After the indictment, Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, was ordered released after spending most of the past year in prison for refusing to testify against his friend.

In August, when the 43-year-old Bonds passed Hank Aaron to become the MLB career home run leader, he flatly rejected any suggestion that the milestone was stained by steroids.

"This record is not tainted at all. At all. Period," Bonds said.

Bonds finished the year with 762 homers, seven more than Aaron, and is currently a free agent. *AP*

BARRY Bonds: In trouble again AP

Mavericks outlast Spurs; Suns score

DALLAS—THE DALLAS Mavericks defeated the San Antonio Spurs, 105-92, in an early season showdown of two NBA heavyweights on Thursday.

But despite the big Western Conference victory, the Mavericks were not reading too much into the win.

"We can make a little statement, but it doesn't mean much," Devin Harris said. "We look to make a statement in the playoffs."

Josh Howard scored 23 points for the Mavericks.

In Phoenix, Leandro Barbosa scored 25 points, including 5-of-7 on 3s, and Grant Hill added 24 points as the Suns beat the Chicago Bulls, 112-102. *AP/Reuters*

NBA on Basketball TV today
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BOP surplus hits all-time high

Jan-Oct record reaches $7.85B on strong inflows

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES POSTED A record balance-of-payments surplus of $7.85 billion in the first 10 months of the year on the back of strong foreign investments and remittance inflows, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

In October alone, the BOP surplus reached $1.19 billion, reversing the $95-million deficit posted in September.

The overall surplus for the 10-month period dwarfed the $3.8-billion surplus in the same period last year, and exceeded the $6.3-billion target for the full year.

"The BOP has continued to register a strong surplus as a result of sustained foreign exchange inflows coming from overseas Filipino remittances, merchandise exports, net inflows of foreign direct and portfolio investments and investment income of the BSP," said Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the local economy and the rest of the world. Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident, like importation or debt servicing, is a deficit item in the BOP, while that which gives rise to a receipt, like borrowing, exporting or remitting cash from abroad, is a surplus item.

Because of the strong BOP surplus, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the peso would likely remain strong against the US dollar.

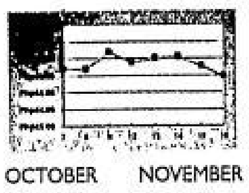
The country's strong external position since the start of the year has fueled the peso's appreciation by more than 14 percent since the start of the year, making the local currency the best performing denomination in developing Asia.

Monthly remittances flowing into the country have exceeded the $1-billion mark since May 2006. Based on the BSP's latest da-

BOP SURPLUS/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



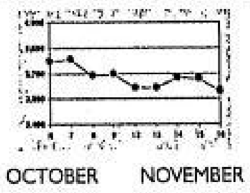
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱43.5 = $

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 16, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Stocks drop 2%

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE Index yesterday fell 73.26 points, or 2.04 percent, to 3,598.96, due to a drop on Wall Street.

STOCKS/ B3

IN THIS ISSUE
- **Gov't corporate** income tax take up in 9 months /B2
- **Oil firms told** to justify price hikes /B3
- **MWCI asks for hike** in water rates /B8

Fitch remains upbeat on RP economy

ALTHOUGH GLOBAL CREDIT WATCHDOG Fitch Ratings is upbeat on the Philippines' growth prospects for this year and the next, it is still worried about the government's collection shortfall, which may affect the country's strong economic momentum.

Fitch Ratings' senior director and head of Asia sovereign ratings James McCormack told reporters at the sidelines of the Philippine Economic Society convention yesterday that the country could post an average gross domestic product growth of 7 percent this year.

Despite a widely expected global economic slowdown next year, McCormark said a 6-percent Philippine GDP growth would still be viable.

The country's GDP grew to 7.3 percent in the first-half of 2007—the highest among the middle-income countries of Southeast Asia.

The Philippines was able to attain its highest economic growth in 20 years due to the government's improved spending on infrastructure, an external payments surplus, falling interest rates, recovering financial markets and strong consumption fueled by remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

But Fitch, which rates the government's credit at two notches below investment grade and is the most optimistic among the three major global rating agencies, is still disappointed over the revenue shortfalls despite the country's strong economic performance in the first half of the year.

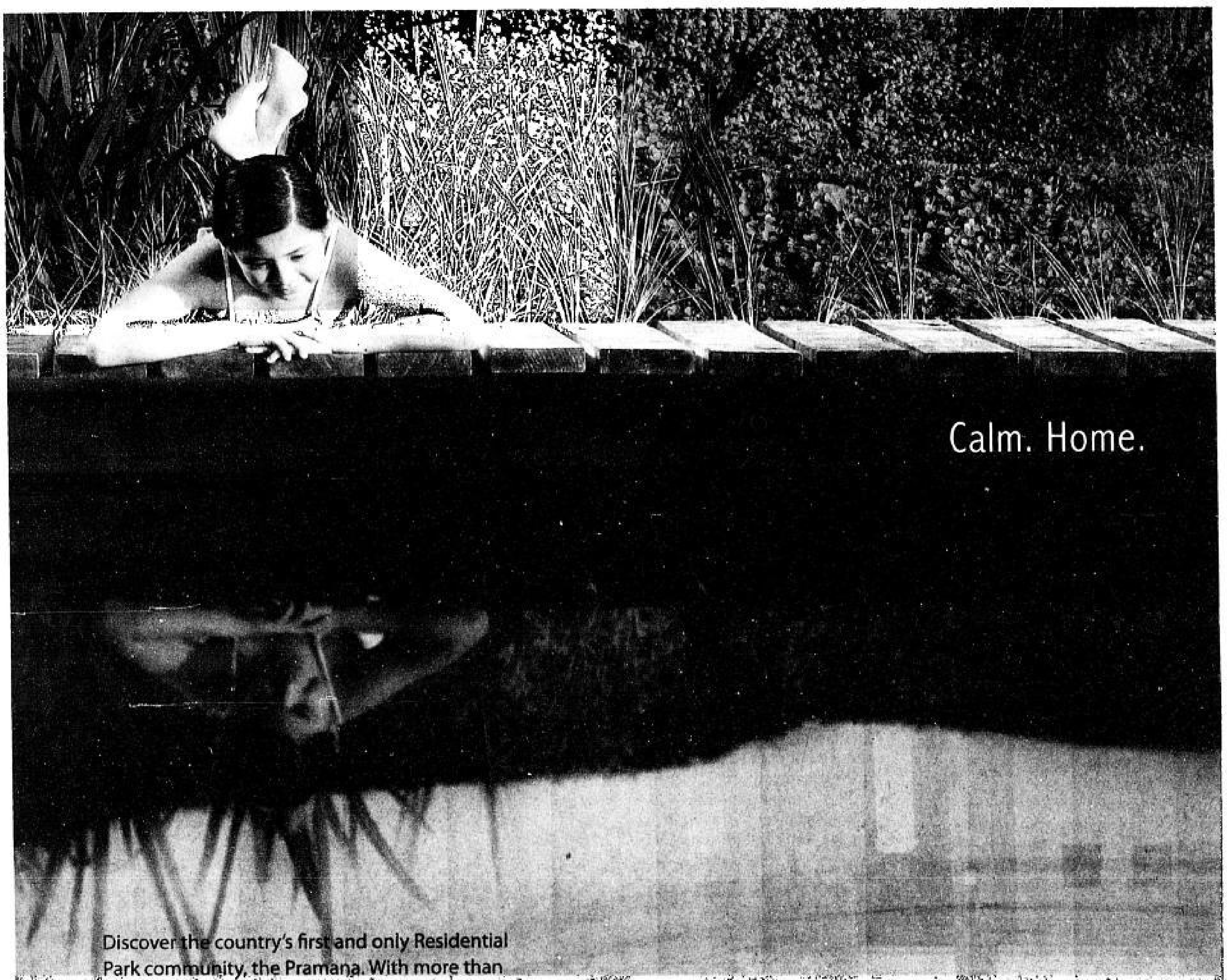
Standard & Poor's rates sovereign credit at three notches below investment grade, while Moody's rating is the most pessimistic at four notches below investment grade.

"We were surprised at how weak revenues were in the first half," McCormack said. "If the economy grows fast and tax revenues don't, that's unusual."

He noted that, in the case of China, revenue growth was even stronger that the rate of economic expansion.

"Tax administration simply has to improve

FITCH / B3



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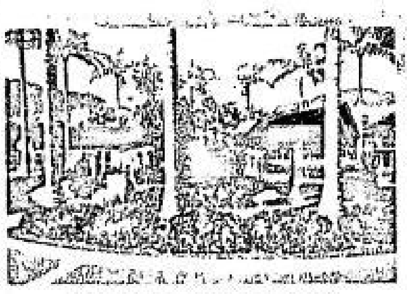
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Gov't corporate income tax take up in 9 months

Higher business earnings, increased tax rate

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT'S INCOME tax collection from corporate taxpayers registered a double-digit increase in January to September due to higher company earnings and the increase in the tax rate from 32 percent to 35 percent.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue said its corporate income tax collection reached P170.25 billion in the first nine months of the year, up 18.47 percent from P143.7 billion in the same period last year and exceeding by 2.2 percent the target of P166.59 billion for the period.

The increase in the corporate income tax rate, which took effect in November last year, was provided for in the Value-Added Tax Reform (RVAT) Law, which also expanded the coverage of the tax.

Finance officials said the increase in the corporate income tax collection was further boosted by higher corporate earnings.

The strong inflows of portfolio and foreign direct investments arising from the improved perception on the Philippine economy, which grew by an average of 7.3 percent in the first half of the year, were credited by government's economic managers for the improved income-generation performance of the corporate sector.

BIR data showed that of the total corporate income tax collection in the first three quarters, P85.76 billion represented the companies' own liabilities, while the remaining P84.49 billion was accounted for by income taxes withheld by these corporate taxpayers. The Tax Code requires large taxpayers to withhold portion of the tax liabilities on their suppliers' income.

Despite the higher-than-target collection of corporate income tax in the first nine months, the BIR still fell short of its total tax collection target for the period.

The Department of Finance, mother agency of the BIR, earlier reported that the BIR's total tax collection stood at P521.9 billion in January to September, about P45 billion short of its goal of P566.9 billion.

The shortfall was recorded for other tax types, including excise taxes on sin products, the BIR said.

The BIR, whose full-year collection target was set at P765.9 billion, was tasked to implement measures to tighten its audit function and plug leakages in revenue collection. The tax collection agency was also told to update its taxpayers database to capture unregistered income earners.

Pure Foods net up 171% to ₱967M

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SAN MIGUEL PURE FOODS CO. Inc., the food manufacturing arm of San Miguel Corp., reported a 171-percent increase in its net income in the first nine months to P967 million from P338.81 million last year.

In a report to the Philippine Stock Exchange, SMPFCI said its consolidated revenue grew 15 percent to P43.6 billion from January to September from P37.98 billion last year. The growth was attribute to the full consolidation of Monterey into SMPFCI, strong growth in volume and the favorable price environment.

Cost of sales increased by 12 percent in the first nine months largely due to Monterey's consolidation, the continued rise in the cost of major raw materials and the escalating fuel prices.

The company said operational efficiency and improvements, and the additional margin contribution from Monterey resulted in a 29-percent increase in gross profit to P7.25 billion in nine months from P5.609 billion a year ago.

Selling and administrative expenses grew by 23 percent during the period to P5.58 billion due to advertising and promotions spending for new products and major brands, higher manpower costs and distribution expenses.

The substantial improvement in other incomes was attributed to the increase in the number of investment options entered into and higher marked-to-market gains on derivatives during the period.

SMPFCI and its subsidiaries are involved in poultry operations, processing and marketing of refrigerated and canned meat products, manufacturing and wholesaling of flour and feeds products and manufacturing and marketing of breadfill, snacks, desserts and dairy-based products.

Ginebra's 9-mo profit down 8.8% to ₱325.6M

LIQUOR FIRM GINEBRA SAN MIGUEL INC. said its net income in the first nine months of the year slipped 8.8 percent to P325.63 million from P357.13 million in the same period last year due mainly to higher marketing and fixed operational expenses.

Third quarter results, however, showed a 274-percent jump in net income to P94.41 million from P25.2 million in the same months last year.

Efforts to increase the number of directly served outlets and to intensify product penetration and availability resulted in a 74-percent increase in the company's selling and marketing expenses to P1.17 billion in the nine-month period from P673 million a year ago.

In its financial report to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), GSMI said that while fixed operational expenses rose during the nine-month period, interest and financing charges fell 62 percent to P109 million from year-ago level. This was attributed to the reduction in accounts receivables and inventories which freed up funds for debt payments.

In the third quarter, interest expenses were also down by 60 percent to P35.16 million from P87.15 million in the same period last year.

Net sales in the nine-month period grew slightly by 2.3 percent to P9.49 billion from P9.28 billion. Total sales volume rose 6 percent during the period.

Sales volume of GSMI's flagship gin increased by 18 percent, as a result of aggressive marketing programs and better selling and distribution strategies.

Cost of sales in the first nine months hit P7.085 billion, almost the same as the P7.053 billion a year ago. In the third quarter, cost of sales was lower at P2.14 billion than the P2.485 billion in the same quarter last year.

Gross profit in the first nine months rose 8 percent to P2.4 billion, and by 59 percent in the third quarter. *Elizabeth S. Lacson*

Trans-Asia to get partners

By Abigail L. Ho

LISTED FIRM TRANS-ASIA OIL and Energy Development Corp. has signed three separate agreements with Blade Petroleum Philippines Ltd. and VenturOil BVI, giving them an option to acquire stakes in various petroleum blocks in Palawan.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Trans-Asia vice president for exploration Raymundo Reyes Jr. said the three option agreements covered Service Contract 14 Tara Production Area, SC 14 Matinloc and SC 6B, in which Trans-Asia had shares.

Under the option agreements, he said the Blade Petroleum-VenturOil joint venture would conduct due diligence on the contract areas over a three-month period, which could be extended to up to six months.

"Before the end of the aforementioned option period, the joint venture may exercise its option to acquire 70-percent participating interest in any or all of the blocks, in exchange for carrying Trans-Asia and other original consortium partners in all expenditures up to production of first oil," he said.

The option agreements, however, were still subject to the approval of the Department of Energy, he said.

He said oil production in the Tara and North Matinloc fields were suspended in 1990, while SC 6B was still in the exploratory stage.

Trans-Asia held a 22.5-percent stake in the SC 14 Tara block, a 6.1-percent share in the SC 14 North Matinloc field and a 14.1-percent stake in SC 6B.

In the adjacent SC 6A, the DOE in September approved the farm-in of Vitol GPC Investment SA, giving the Geneva-based company a 70-percent stake in the offshore Palawan exploration contract.

Philodrill Corp. said the entry of Vitol had altered the participating interests of the parties involved in SC 6A.

Gov't losing ₱4.7B in revenue due to oil smuggling

THE GOVERNMENT LOST ABOUT P4.7 billion in potential revenues in the first seven months of the year due to oil smuggling, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said.

Teves said the robust performance of the economy should have meant higher consumption of oil, but official records showed a decline in the volume of imported crude.

"These uncollected revenues could have gone into financing vital infrastructure and social services needed by our people," Teves said in a speech that was delivered on his behalf by Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales yesterday during the meeting of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association.

Teves said unscrupulous individuals had been encouraged to engage in oil smuggling due to the rising oil prices.

The Philippines is a target of oil smugglers because the commodity is not subsidized by the government.

He noted that oil imports fell 1.2 percent to 7.248 million tons in January to July from 7.335 million tons a year ago.

"This drop in import volume is counterintuitive considering that there is higher demand for oil when an economy is enjoying fast-paced growth," Teves said. *Michelle V. Remo*

CURRENCIES

November 16, 2007

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.683761	1.000000	43.1150
Japan	Yen	0.006196	0.009062	0.3907
United Kingdom	Pound	1.398564	2.045400	88.1874
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.087820	0.128437	5.5376
Switzerland	Franc	0.609304	0.891107	38.4201
Canada	Dollar	0.694385	1.015538	43.7849
Singapore	Dollar	0.470585	0.688231	29.6731
Australia	Dollar	0.608870	0.890472	38.3927
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.819964	2.661698	114.7591
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.183314	0.268097	11.5590
Brunei	Dollar	0.468972	0.685871	29.5713
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000073	0.000107	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.021707	0.031746	1.3687
UAE	Dirham	0.186311	0.272480	11.7480
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.462500	63.0557
Korea	Won	0.000747	0.001093	0.0471
China	Yuan**	0.092116	0.134720	5.8085
Denmark	Kroner	0.134208	0.196279	8.4626
India	Rupee	0.017452	0.025523	1.1004
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.202896	0.296736	12.7938
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518354	0.758093	32.6852
Sweden	Kroner	0.107869	0.157759	6.8018
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021174	0.030967	1.3351

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 15, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen
** Asian time closing rate as of Nov 15, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 16, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.8	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.2	34,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	56	56	54	55	2,250,200
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	65.5	65.5	62	62	2,670,700
748	540	China Banking Corp.	700	705	690	690	1,770
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,900,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	56	56	52	53.5	13,196,100
65.5	39	Philippine National Bank	45.5	46	44.5	44.5	645,400
68	46	Philippine Savings Bank	61	62	61	62	4,000
39.57	19.57	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	25	25	24	24.5	6,995,800
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	72.5	72.5	71.5	71.5	75,000
66	42	Union Bank of the Philippines	43	44	43	43.5	548,600
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4	4	4	4	201,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.94	1.98	5,533,000
16.25	4.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.25	12.5	11.75	11.75	1,371,600
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1	1	450,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	286,000
1,970.00	1,580.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,850.00	1,850.00	1,850.00	1,850.00	630
5	2.85	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.15	3.15	3	3	2,779,000
1,390.00	245	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,130.00	1,130.00	1,130.00	1,130.00	500
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	175,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5	5.1	5	5	25,687,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	60	61	60	60	168,600
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	75	75	70.5	70.5	2,392,100
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	17	17	16	16	8,208,700
105.45	26.82	Manila Electric Co.	76	77.5	74.5	75	626,600
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.2	59,828,000
7.4	3.95	Petron Corp.	6.2	6.2	5.9	5.9	3,028,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	6,000
2.3	1	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.74	1.8	1.68	1.7	5,028,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.2	5.2	4.95	5	1,696,000
2.41	1.48	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.8	2,028,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24	24	23.5	23.5	7,600
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	49.5	49.5	48.5	49.5	359,500
9.1	5.7	Pancake House Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	6,000
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	140,000
3.6	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	163,000
80	51	San Miguel Corp. "A"	52.5	52.5	51.5	51.5	65,000
88	51.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	54	54	51.5	51.5	283,700
20.75	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14	14.25	13.75	13.75	5,657,200
0.55	0.24	Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.36	0.3	0.36	100,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.65	EEI Corp.	5.1	5.2	4.95	5	543,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8	8	8	251,000
2	0.64	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	1,079,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.3	4.35	4.25	4.25	423,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	260,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	5,980,000
9	8.1	Splash Corp.	8.2	8.5	8.1	8.2	15,433,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	139,000
0.185	0.0525	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.135	0.135	90,920,000
1.28	0.27	APC Group Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.62	0.62	1,750,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.8	47,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	20,000,000
9.7	5.7	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.6	6.7	6	6.5	2,428,000
39	18.75	ABS-CBN Holdings Corp. - Phil. Deposit Receipts	35.5	37	35.5	35.5	85,800
0.021	0.009	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	5,100,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5	5.1	4.95	5.1	26,768,000
1.38	0.56	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.82	880,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.48	2.55	8,005,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	10,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	585	590	575	580	172,410
5.8	1.64	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.05	4.05	3.9	3.9	11,314,000
12	4.95	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.75	11	10.75	10.75	1,068,000
8	3.15	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.3	6.6	266,000
3.55	1.6	House of Investments Inc.	2.02	2.02	2	2	130,000
14.5	8.1	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11	11.25	10.75	10.75	31,900
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	9,000
11.5	1.5	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.9	7.6	6.8	6.9	17,280,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	82,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	96,780,000
0.75	0.19	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	490,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	350	355	350	355	356,030
0.73	0.14	Sinophil Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	6,550,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	2,260,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.64	0.75	0.64	0.68	1,360,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.5	1.5	515,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.5	7.6	7.2	7.2	62,000
1.06	0.4	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.69	0.73	0.68	0.71	1,440,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	16	16.25	16	16	20,943,200
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.24	1,621,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	4,000
3.83	2.08	City and Land Developers Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	184,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.62	0.62	1,110,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	1,590,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.77	0.75	0.76	5,670,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.95	107,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.25	1,120,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1	1	0.98	0.98	3,050,000
2.44	1.28	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.66	1.72	1.66	1.66	94,004,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.55	600,000
4.6	1.86	Megaworld Corp.	4.1	4.1	3.95	3.95	5,329,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	188,000
5.2	2.2	Metro Pacific Investments Corp. - Warrants	3.6	3.65	3.5	3.5	353,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	2,030,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	3,810,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.5	1,186,300
5.9	1.93	SM Development Corp.	4.05	4.05	4	4	268,000
13.5	7.6	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	10.75	11.25	16,440,700
3.25	1.5	Shang Properties Inc.	2.2	2.22	2.2	2.2	354,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	2.38	2.38	2.22	2.22	121,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	530,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	2,800,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	4.95	5.1	4.9	5.1	26,649,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33	34	33	33	103,400
12	7.9	GMA Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	902,000
11.75	7.9	GMA Network Inc.	8.1	8.1	8	8	172,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	963,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,615.00	1,615.00	1,595.00	1,595.00	29,270
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,050.00	3,055.00	3,010.00	3,015.00	195,020
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7	7.2	7	7.2	840,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.205	0.19	0.2	7,800,000
13.5	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	11.5	13.5	11.5	13.5	6,711,800
11.5	2.5	IPVG Corp.	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.4	1,575,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.041	0.041	0.039	0.039	22,100,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	15	15	15	15	11,000
5	1.62	Information Capital Tech. Ventures Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	18,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	48,000
0.32	0.048	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.18	2,580,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.36	1.4	543,000
0.0725	0.03	Philweb Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.049	0.05	17,900,000
5.8	1.64	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	415,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	396,000
42.5	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	39	40	39	39.5	2,000,600
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	40,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5	51,000
1.16	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.91	0.99	0.91	0.94	7,150,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.8	0.8	460,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	8,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	173,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2.02	Macroasia Corp.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	1,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.5	11.5	11	11.25	610,000
30	8.1	Paxys Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.1	8.1	287,000
150	22	Prime Gaming Philippines Inc.	90	90	90	90	10,000
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	430,000,000
7.1	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.1	6.2	6	6.2	504,000
7.2	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	815,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14.5	14.5	14	14	1,048,700
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	8,000
12.75	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	10	10.25	9.8	9.8	335,300
3.1	0.6	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2	2.06	1.96	2	40,533,000
0.56	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.51	0.53	0.49	0.5	208,820,000
0.61	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.55	0.57	0.53	0.54	143,460,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.029	1,131,300,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.032	0.035	0.032	0.032	560,300,000
30	2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	21.75	21.75	20.5	20.5	2,249,600
0.021	0.0088	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	224,800,000
0.015	0.007	Omico Corp. - Warrants	0.009	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	46,000,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.8	10	9.7	9.8	7,909,000
1.36	0.49	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.79	0.79	2,750,000
1.8	0.69	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,240,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	7,260,000
0.029	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	77,200,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	124,200,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.25	10.25	10	10	90,100
0.032	0.0094	The Philodrill Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	76,400,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	876.53 DOWN	36.00	39,118,900	1,267,637,180.00
Industrial	4,272.27 DOWN	109.80	139,448,000	1,214,608,800.00
Holding Firms	2,069.74 DOWN	33.18	294,226,340	620,246,860.00
Property	1,622.41 DOWN	19.52	191,726,200	870,461,805.00
Service	1,810.70 DOWN	19.24	73,123,090	851,198,700.00
Mining & Oil	8,419.20 DOWN	281.25	3,041,222,700	489,527,605.00
All Shares Index	2,210.30 DOWN	37.72		
PSEi	3,598.96 DOWN	73.26		
		GRAND TOTALS	3,778,865,230	5,313,680,950.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Rival Philcomsat groups jostle to tighten hold on sequestered telco

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE GOVERNMENT-LED LOCSIN-Poblador group has shortlisted a number of independent external auditors to resume the examination of the books of Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC).

At the same time, rival private shareholders of its parent firm, Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), are asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to appoint responsible nominees to represent the government's 35-percent stake in the telecommunications firm when it holds its shareholders' meeting on Nov. 19.

This will be the first such meeting to be attended by the government's nominees since 2000.

In a statement, Philcomsat shareholders led by Erlinda Bildner appealed to the President to appoint nominees who will work together with the private shareholders representing 65 percent of the company to rehabilitate and "restore the viability of this once-premier company in the telecommunications industry."

Bildner pointed out that the track record of PCGG nominees has been "marred with fraudulent corporate and banking transactions."

Amid these charges, the government nominees on the controversial firm's board stressed their desire to determine the true state of the group's finances.

"We want to know how the company's funds were spent and if there is any accountability, we want to know who is responsible for what," said PHC chairperson Concepcion Poblador.

According to the government-led side, it launched its search for a new auditing firm since its previous auditor could no longer serve the company, "after it was sued by the Ilusorio-Africa group which is trying to take over the whole Philcomsat group."

The Ilusorio-Africa group controls PHC's mother firms, POTC and Philcomsat.

They added that their rivals have refused to have the parent firms audited since they assumed control in 2000.

She added that when the Ilusorio-Africa group took over POTC and Philcomsat, both of which are sequestered for ill-gotten wealth issues, the firms had P4 billion in assets and P1.4 billion in cash and near-cash assets.

Oil firms told to justify price hikes

By Abigail L. Ho

DOE junks proposal to reduce tariffs on petroleum products

AS WORLD OIL PRICES CONtinue to soar, the Department of Energy has ordered local oil firms to justify the pump-price increases they implemented in the past weeks.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said he has written local oil companies to ask them to submit position papers with regard to the recent price adjustments.

"We have to be sure (about the price increases). It is my job to see to it that these increases are reasonable. There is a task force (composed of the DOE and the Department of Justice) that can look into the reasonableness of pricing," he said.

Since the downstream oil market was deregulated, he said it was difficult for anyone to speculate on oil prices and it was also impossible for the government to intervene with pricing decisions as long as these were reasonable.

"What we can do as provided by the Oil Deregulation Law is whenever there is reason to believe that a price increase is unreasonable, we will look into it and have a dialogue with the oil companies to examine the reasonableness of their increase," he said.

"And we have done that. I've written them already and they are going to submit their position papers to explain the price increases," he added.

He said it was important for the government to mitigate the impact of rising world oil prices on local pump prices as this could prompt the public transport sector to jack up fares.

One way to alleviate the impact of high oil prices on public utility vehicles, he said, was a more intensive campaign to rid the streets of colorum—or out of line—vehicles and of "*kotong*" or extortionist cops.

He said the proposal to cut tariffs on crude and petroleum products—one of the ways that government could intervene with pricing at the pump—had already been junked.

"The reality of the situation is that if you reduce the tariff by 1 (percentage point), it would result in a reduction in government revenue by P450 million a month, but it would only result in the reduction of the price of gasoline by 23 centavos a liter. The President has instructed us to look at other ways of addressing this problem," he said.

Another scheme being proposed was the implementation of a two-tiered pricing mechanism, which would offer petroleum products at lower prices to public utility vehicles and at higher prices to private motorists.

"With the two-tiered system, the problem is the implementation,'" he explained. Whenever you have schemes like this, it's subject to abuse. So you have to look at the mechanics of how to implement it."

PSBank, Balikatan enter into a Loan Portfolio Sale

In a recent landmark transaction, Balikatan Housing Finance, Inc. (Balikatan) sold the first of many tranches of performing residential mortgage loans to Philippine Savings Bank (PSBank). PSBank successfully bid for 357 residential mortgage accounts with an aggregate outstanding balance of P 127 million through a competitive and private auction held in April this year.

PSBank is the country's second largest thrift bank and has 162 branches nationwide. The Bank has been at the forefront of various product marketing campaigns and process improvements in consumer loans, which has led to its strong competitive position in the thrift bank industry. PSBank serves more than 350,000 customer accounts and is a subsidiary of Metrobank. It intends to open more branches in the next few years in order to serve communities that are outside its current reach.

Balikatan holds a portfolio of non-performing loans acquired from the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC). These loans were originated through the government's development of affordable housing mortgages under its Unified Home Lending Program in the 1980s. The sale to PSBank reflects Balikatan's successful work-out efforts through its service provider Bahay Financial Services, Inc. or BFS, Inc.

BFS, Inc., which provides customized asset management services for Balikatan and the affordable housing sector, facilitated the auction and sale to PSBank. Upon approval by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, PSBank will utilize BFS in the management of its newly-acquired portfolio.

Consumers oppose Transco privatization

AN ALLIANCE OF ELECTRIcity consumers is opposing the transfer of the control and maintenance of National Transmission Corp. to the private sector, saying this may cause consumers more harm than good in the long run.

In a statement, the 40-organization EmPower Consumers said bidding out the right to operate and maintain the nationwide transmission grid "poses a threat to national security as well as the economy."

"We can be held hostage by profit-driven private companies once Transco is under their control. The winning bidder of Transco would be holding the switchboard of the entire country and has the power to turn it off at will," the group warned.

Four groups remain in the race for the right to maintain, operate and expand Transco.

Qualified to participate in the final bidding on Dec. 12 are the consortium of Monte Oro Grid Resources Corp. and State Grid Corp. of China, the group of Two Rivers Pacific Holdings Corp. and Terna-Rete Electtrica Nazionale Spa., the joint venture between San Miguel Energy Corp. and TPG Aurora BV, and the partnership between Citadel Holdings Inc. and Power Grid Corp. of India Ltd.

Power Sector Assets and Management Corp. president Jose Ibazeta said prospective investors had requested that the final technical and financial bids for the concession be kept "private."

This means PSALM will not allow anyone outside of the bidding groups and authorized government representatives to be present on the day of the submission and opening of the offers. "For a company which earns P15 billion yearly and provides the connection between generation and distribution, there is so much public interest at stake that Transco's bidding should not be done behind closed doors," EmPower Consumers spokesperson Milo Tanchuling said.

Abigail L. Ho

Taiwanese firm sinks in $500M for power ventures

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TAIWANESE FIRM FORmosa Heavy Industries Corp. is investing at least $500 million in Philippine power projects, as its parent firm engages in a massive effort to expand worldwide.

Minister of Economic Affairs Steve Ruey-Long Chen, who is on an official visit to the Philippines, said FHI's foray in Cebu and Iloilo was also part of Taiwan's drive to further develop cross-border investments and partnerships between independent power producers.

Chen was speaking at the sidelines of the 20th Joint Meeting of the Philippine-Chinese Business Council and the Chinese-Philippines Business Council held yesterday at the InterContinental Hotel in Makati City.

On Wednesday, Global Business Power Corp.—a unit of the Metrobank Group of Companies—announced it had signed a joint venture agreement with FHI on the development of 246 megaWatts for the former's power station in Toledo City in Cebu, apart from a new 164-mW plant in Iloilo City.

FHI's Philippine ventures is part of parent firm Formosa Plastic Group's NT$707-billion (about $22 billion) investment salvo set for the next five years.

"The energy sector is one of the main areas that we are looking into, where opportunities to strengthen our bilateral ties could be taken," Chen said. "(Our) IPPs have a vast experience, and I believe we could maximize that to help both our countries."

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BOP surplus hits ...

From page B1

ta, total OFW remittances for the first nine months amounted to $10.5 billion—15-percent higher than the inflows posted in the same period last year.

The US Federal Reserve's recent interest rate cuts have also revived global investors' appetite for assets from emerging markets like the Philippines, resulting in stronger portfolio inflows.

But in its East Asia Pacific update, the World Bank said the emergence of large BOP inflows in several East Asian economies—both current account surpluses and capital inflows—could bring potential economic challenges, such as domestic overheating pressures and asset bubbles, loss of competitiveness, and increased vulnerability to sudden reversals of capital flows.

"Such inflows place upward pressures on the exchange rate," the World Bank report said. "The trade-off that countries then face is either allowing the exchange rate to appreciate—with possible consequences on the competitiveness of exports—or intervening in the foreign exchange markets to keep the nominal exchange rate from appreciating, which [may result in] ... a potential vulnerability of the financial sector."

But even if the central banks in the region move to temper the appreciation of their respective currencies, the World Bank said countries could still experience an appreciation of the real exchange rate arising from an increase in inflation.

Stocks drop 2%

From page B1

It was the PSEi's weakest finish since Oct. 1. The retreat on Wall Street was brought on by lingering concerns over the US economy.

The broader all-share index lost 37.72 points to 2,210.30. Decliners overwhelmed advancers 101 to 17, while 41 stocks were steady.

Volume amounted to 3.8 billion shares worth P5.3 billion. *AP, AFP*

Fitch remains ...

From page B1

here. he added. "We hear about efforts but we're not seeing the results in terms of revenues."

McCormack said raising taxes was not the solution as the problem was rooted on the collection side, and not on the tax system itself.

He added three major risks would continue to hound the region—the sharp exchange rate appreciation, the probability of a recession in the US, and higher oil prices.

"The exchange rate is something to watch out for," McCormack said. "With the dollar expected to decline well into 2008, Asian currencies will be affected. It may be difficult for economies to manage."

A strong local currency vis-a-vis the US dollar may a big help in inflation management especially for net oil importers like the Philippines. But it also hurts the export sector as well as households benefiting from overseas remittances. *Doris C. Dumlao*

MOLDEX INKS AGREEMENT WITH PAG-IBIG, UNIONBANK AND DMCI FOR THE GRAND TOWERS

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (HDMF)
THE GRAND TOWERS
MOLDEX REALTY, INC.
SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
NOVEMBER 9, 2007
Bank: UNIONBANK
Contractor:

The Moldex Group of Companies recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Pag-IBIG making it possible to avail of units at the Grand Towers via Pag -IBIG's Medium and High-Rise Building (MHRB) Program. Moldex also inked an agreement with the Unionbank as its financing partner for the program while a contract was also signed with DMCI, a prime builder in condo development for the construction of The Grand Towers.

"The decision to choose Unionbank was an easy one. Aside from the fact that they already have experience in the MHRB program of Pag-IBIG, they are already tried and tested partners of Moldex... This is also true with DMCI because we want to be secure in the knowledge that the Grand Towers is being handled by one of the best contractors in the the country,"said Roy Joseph Vinuya, President of the Moldex Group of Companies

"This is a representation of what Pag-IBIG stands for- a cooperation among members, banks, the real estate industry and the government," said Romero Quimbo, CEO of Pag -IBIG Fund

The Grand Towers is located along Pablo Ocampo St., formerly Vito Cruz and is at the midpoint of business centers of Manila and Makati. With the signing of the agreements, more than 1,600 units of Grand Towers is now made more affordable to the Filipino market via the MHRB program and thus making it possible for them to live nearer to their places of work or business. It offers studio type, one bedroom and 2-bedroom units Unit prices start for as low P1.4M.

Signing the contracts are:

Seated, (L to R) Beatriz Romulo, Executive Vice President of Unionbank, Roy Joseph Z. Vinuya, President of the Moldex Group of Companies (MGOC), Michael Uy, Vice Chairman of the Moldex Group of Companies, Romero Quimbo, CEO and President of Pag-IBIG Fund, Jacinto Uy, Chairman of the Moldex Group of Companies, Isidro Consunji, President of DMCI Holdings.

Standing (L to R), Rey Ignacio Diaz, President of Moldex Realty,inc., Aldee T. Tejano SEVP of Moldex Realty Marketing Inc., Editha Pascua, Head of the Project Evaluation Dept of Pag-IBIG Fund, Juanito Eje,Head of the Wholesale Lending Group of Pag-IBIG Fund, Arch. Lily Pio Roda, President of Asian Technicon Managers and Consultants, Inc.

CARMEN FABELLA BATE

Peacefully joined her Creator
on November 15, 2007 at the age of 75.

Her loving husband, **Celso**
children,
Noel and **Sophie**, **Carina** (†), **Ceejay**,
Louie and **Liza**, **Dino** and **Kelly**, **Swasi**,
Tomo and **Corky**, **Clarito** (†), **Mel**, and **Tina**
grandchildren,
Simon, **Cali**, **Lorenzo**, **Marco**, and **Enrico**

request the pious readers to pray for
the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio church.
Inurnment will be on Tuesday, November 20, 2007
after the 9am Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio church.

In Loving Memory

on the 4th Death Anniversary of

ATTY. FLORENCIO T. SANTOS

a loving husband, devoted father and supportive grandfather...
a friend, mentor, and colleague...

who joined his Creator on November 17, 2003.

*He is survived by his wife, **Atty. Natividad N. Santos***

and his four children and their families:

Bobot & Maria; Jenny** and **Robbie
Cesar & Baby; Michael & Vanessa**, and **Dr. Maan
Vera & Engr. Ramon Morales; Vince, Ryan & Wendy, Ralph, Monica**, and **Michelle
Ellen & Dr. Glenn Abundo; Nicole, Bela**, and **Ana

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory at the following churches:

Lourdes Church, Retiro St., Q.C.	6:30am
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Ave, Q.C.	6:00 am
Carmel of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Gilmore, Q.C.	6:00 am
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Claret, Q.C.	6 am & 6 pm
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan	6:15 am
Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Q.C.	6 am, 7 am & 6 pm
Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus, San Miguel, Manila	7 am & 5 pm
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag, Pangasinan	9:00 am
St. Patrick's Church, Mission St., San Francisco, CA	12 nn
Notre Dame des Victoires, Bush St., San Francisco, CA	12:10 pm
Holy Spirit Catholic Church, E. Champlain St., Fresno, CA	7:30 am

*Grandpa, memories of you are etched deeply in our minds and in our hearts... **forever.***

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

In Loving Memory
on the 1st Death Anniversary of

Judge Jesus G. Bersamira (Ret.)

(November 1, 1935 – November 17, 2006)

It's been a year since a loving husband, a caring father and the best grandpa left this world to join his Creator. The past twelve months have been really tough coping with the loss of our beloved **Jesus** (**Susing**). His memory will forever linger in our hearts and will never be forgotten. In his memory today, we will offer Holy Masses at the ff. churches:

Holy Family Parish *(Kamias Q.C.)*	6:30 P.M.
Holy Trinity *(Village East Exec. Homes Cainta)*	7:00 P.M.
Immaculate Conception Parish *(Pasig City)*	6:00 A.M.
St. Joseph Shrine *(Aurora Blvd., Q.C.)*	7:45 A.M.
St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish *(Filinvest East Antipolo)*	6:00 P.M.
San Guillermo Parish *(Buting Pasig)*	6:00 A.M.

Our Beloved

MARITES MONTES LAUS

November 1, 1961 – November 5, 2007
Peacefully joined our Creator
at the age of 46.

We, the family, request our relatives, friends and colleagues to offer their prayers for her intention.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

Death Notice

JAIME ERNESTO B. BASA

March 6, 1960 - Nov. 12, 2007

His body will lie at Chapel Fir, Sanctuarium, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City as soon as the body arrives on the night of November 22, 2007 from Australia.

Tentative interment will be on November 27, 2007 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

The Board of Trustees, Officers and Faculty of

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extend their deepest sympathies to the family of

CARMEN FABELLA BATE

Member of the Board of Trustees, Vice President and Treasurer

who passed away on November 15, 2007 at the age of 75.

Her husband, **Celso**;
her children, **Noel** and **Sophie**, **Carina** (†), **Ceejay**, **Louie** and **Liza**,
Dino and **Kelly**, **Swasi**, **Tomo** and **Corky**, **Clarito** (†), **Mel**, and **Tina**;
her grandchildren, **Simon**, **Cali**, **Lorenzo**, **Marco**, and **Enrico**
her sister, **Virgiña**, her brother, **Armand**, and her sister-in-law **Nela**

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio church.
Inurnment will be on Tuesday, November 20, 2007
after the 9am Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio church.

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ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND, PHILIPPINE ARMY
DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
Fort Andres Bonifacio, Metro Manila

DISCOM
08 November 2007

NOTICE TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND DISPOSAL COMMITTEE invites interested parties and/or Junk Shop Owners to apply for Auction for four (4) lots consisting of nine (9) unserviceable vehicles and assorted scrap items stockpiled at Hqs 525TH EBn (S), PA located at Adventure Zone, Taguig City and at Army Support Command, Ft. Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

A Pre-Auction conference will be on ***19 November 2007*** at 2:00 PM at Army Support Command (ASCOM) Conference Room. Auction Proper will also be on ***23 November 2007*** at 2:00 PA Army Support Command, (ASCOM), Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures.

Eligible bidders must submit their Bids at Headquarters ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND, Ft. Bonifacio, Metro Manila on or before the scheduled opening of Bids. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representative who chose to attend.

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3. DTI permit
4. BIR Tax Clearance
5. TIN

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8 steps to quit smoking

By Tessa R. Salazar

NINETY PERCENT OF smokers know that smoking is harmful to their health. Seventy percent of all smokers like to quit. But then, after one year, only 7 percent who did quit remain smoke free. What gives?

Dr. Benita Sta. Ana-Ponio, an adviser of the Group for Addiction Psychiatry of the Philippines, said medical intervention is not enough to make smokers permanently kick the habit. Behavioral strategies should be prioritized.

Dr. Edgardo Juan L. Tolentino Jr., president of GAPP, said these behavioral strategies should cover the "before," "during" and "after" of the smoking cessation plan to make sure success is sustained.

1 **Set a quit date.** Smokers have to ask: What is the most meaningful date that I want to quit? Set it on a significant date such as a loved one's birthday, or maybe even Christmas Day.

2 **Prior to the "quit date," you should be mentally preparing already.** Tolentino cited a 70-year-old smoker who had continuously distracted his colleagues during board meetings with his persistent cough. He finally promised, one day, that he would stop smoking. The patient went into contemplation, an important transition toward change.

3 **Set a limit.** Smoke in only one area of your house.

The 70-year-old patient's wife then chose only one area of the house where the husband could smoke. The designated smoking area was a smelly, dirty location outside the house. The family disposed of all the ashtrays in other parts of the house.

4 **Out of sight, out of mind.** What you don't see, you won't remember, you won't crave for. The visual presence of the cigarette was reduced. Cigarettes were hidden from the patient.

5 • **The car is also off-limits for the smoker.** Drivers are also tasked to strictly enforce this rule.

• **Drinking should not be accompanied by smoking.** Tolentino's patient was prohibited from smoking by his fellow board members during drinking sessions.

With these measures enforced, Tolentino related that the patient had begun to reduce significantly his cigarette use well before his quit date. This alone cut down his smoking from two packs a day to just one.

6 **Smoking cessation medications** (if ever there's a need for one) **should be taken one week or two weeks before the quit date.** The medication takes effect after the second week.

When the quit date starts, it is important to change routines. "For example, 30 minutes after waking up and you habitually smoke in the toilet, change the routine. Instead, jog or take a brisk walk before going to the toilet," Tolentino advised.

7 **Exercise is important for quitters.** It makes them avoid gaining weight, become less irritable and more relaxed.

8 **Loved ones should know, and understand the difficulty of quitting smoking, and should consequently support the patient in his or her efforts.** Ponio said: "If a smoker is contemplating on quitting, this is when the support group and loved ones should come in. There are many ways to help them. Remove the 'cues' which trigger cravings and urges to smoke."

She added that the support group or loved ones should also do their part in keeping a quitter remain a quitter.

Psychiatrists said there is a 35 percent success rate for long-term quitters, and much of the success can be attributed more to behavioral strategies than just medications.

High Cholesterol?
A Healthy Stomach Helps Prevent Heart Disease

Christmas is usually the time when you forget about your diet, as you enjoy sumptuous feasts that are high in cholesterol. However, a high cholesterol level in the body may lead to stroke or heart attack.

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No such thing as a simple cough

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

SOMETIMES, PHYSICIANS NEED TO experience what their patients go through so they can better empathize with them.

"What you have is a simple viral cough," I recall telling an anxious patient on the phone sometime last month. My pitch was a little higher than my usual reflecting my displeasure at his waking me up in the middle of the night.

He complained of a dry hacking cough which has deprived him of sleep for several nights already. He would feel the itch in his throat then cough incessantly making him wet his pyjamas and causing his chest muscles to ache, which make him worry that he might be having another heart attack.

"No, you're not having a heart attack," I assured him. "Your coughing is the one causing your chest to ache."

"But don't I need antibiotics?" he asked.

"Didn't I tell you? It's a viral cough. Viruses don't respond to antibiotics. Give it a few days and it will disappear by itself. Just drink lots of fluids," I answered, the tone of impatience quite obvious.

Medical karma

Call it medical karma because I've been experiencing this week exactly the same type of cough my patient complained about. Dry, hacking, no fever, no phlegm, still good appetite, itchy throat, sleepless nights making me miss a couple of my breakfast meetings, chest pains due to the cough. Well, almost everything my patient had except that I don't wet my boxer shorts no matter how uncontrollably effort-intensive the coughing fits at night are.

For two days and two nights I tried to practice what I preach: No medicines necessary since most dry hacking cough—not accompanied by fever or malaise—are just viral, or just because of irritation due to the secondhand smoke we get, or the air pollution we have abundance of.

Definitely no antibiotics. Just the good old advice of lots of fluids and juices and citrus fruits. But now I realize that viruses today are not like the viruses a few decades ago. Viruses then were only capable of short-duration, self-limiting infections characterized only by mild unbothersome symptoms.

People around you hardly noticed you were nursing a viral infection. The viruses must have mutated to relatively more vicious strains, still self-limiting but making sure their hosts gets to taste a little bit of hell before the host's own immune systems gobble them—the pesky viruses.

I started to count the patients who came or called to consult me about what I assessed were "simple" viral infections and convinced them to bear momentarily with their acquired viruses for soon they would be gone.

Surely, the viral coughs and whatever the viruses caused disappeared in due time. But how many days or weeks did they have to endure those bothersome symptoms, which likely affected their productivity at work and their emotional balance due to frayed nerves caused by lack of sleep?

Medicines provide cure

I will have to write a thousand times as penance that medicines are not only needed to provide cure, say by killing the bug causing the illness, but also to relieve the symptoms and improve one's quality of life.

For the simple viral cough, for instance, cough suppressants—not expectorants—can help relieve that dry hacking coughing which gets worse at night time. Expectorants or mucolytics are helpful if the cough has phlegm. Antihistamines may help if there is an allergic component, like in patients with allergic rhinitis or asthma. It's helpful in dry hacking coughs and because it has a sedative effect, it has the added benefit of promoting sleep despite the cough.

One precaution though in wet or productive coughs is that antihistamines may have a drying effect which can make the phlegm more sticky and difficult to expectorate.

Bronchodilators may help

In some patients, the virus can make the airway from the throat to the bronchi inflamed or sensitive producing an asthma-like situation, so bronchodilators may help.

I still don't succumb to the temptation of prescribing an antibiotic if the cough persists for more than a week, because they can do more harm than good, though psychologically, both doctor and patient feel more secure if an antibiotic is taken. Sometimes, broad-spectrum antibiotics with antibacterial shot-gun potency are prescribed, which is more of a panic-button response rather than rational and thoughtful practice of medicine.

In some cases though, a secondary bacterial infection develops and antibiotics will be necessary. From being dry and hacking, the cough becomes productive with yellowish or greenish phlegm, and the patient usually develops fever, more malaise and loss of appetite.

I have to take back my words because there is no such thing as a simple viral cough. If I have some grammatical slips in this article, blame it on my viral cough. I think I need to take another dose of my cough suppressant.

Green Chemistry and the 2001 Nobel Prize

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IMPEL US to shift to better ways of obtaining products. Some chemists have answered the call. In organic synthesis, when they construct carbon-containing molecules, they try to minimize the wastes produced.

They have found an ingenious way of doing so, using chiral molecules. Christine Joy U. Querebillo of the Ateneo de Manila University Chemistry Department tells us more.

Left- or right-handed

Not everything in nature is symmetric. In fact, our left and right hands cannot be totally superimposed upon each other. Our left hand is not a mirror image of the right. Symmetry is beautiful, yes, but it turns out that nonsymmetry can also be useful.

Chiral molecules are non-symmetric, and chemists have discovered that synthesizing them can be efficient. By producing more of one of the two chiral forms, and less of the other, less waste is produced.

Nature differentiates between left and right, so to speak. It mainly uses one of the two chiral forms, so we have proteins, carbohydrates and nucleic acids of only one form. This results in the enzymes and the other receptors in our cells being chiral and, thus, extremely selective. Because of this, the two forms of a chiral molecule can have totally different effects on us.

Take the drug thalidomide. One chiral form helps fight nausea, while the other one can cause fetal damage. It is, therefore, important to be able to produce each form in its pure state. To do this in large quantities, catalysts can be used. A catalyst is a substance that increases the rate of chemical reactions without itself being destroyed.

Scientists now recognize the importance of developing molecules so that only one of the chiral forms is produced. One of them is Ryoji Noyori, who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2001, with William S. Knowles and K. Barry Sharpless. Noyori's work has been used in the production of the antibiotic levofloxacin and menthol.

Science and society

Noyori strongly believes in green chemistry, pursuing "practical elegance in synthesis." He states that "our ability to devise straightforward and practical chemical syntheses is indispensable to the survival of our species, and science is destined to be involved in society in our age." Science has infinite possibilities. However, to produce better results, he argues that "it is important for scientists and policy makers to have honest discussions and build a system that truly contributes to humankind."

Noyori is a professor at Nagoya University and a past president of the Chemical Society of Japan. He has received many awards, including the 1995 Japan Academy Prize, the 2000 Order of Culture and the 2001 Wolf Prize in Chemistry.

To share his thoughts on science and society, Noyori will visit the Philippines for the Tenth Eurasia Conferences on Chemical Sciences in January next year. For more information, visit http://eurasiachem10.philippinechem.org or email eurasiachem10@yahoo.com.

RFA: Excellent alternative to surgery in bone cancer treatment

CAREPLUS

Angelo Palmones

PATIENTS WITH BONE CANCER suffer greatly from excruciating pain, bone fracture, and nerve compression. Bone cancer is by far the most common cause of cancer pain. It often develops when cancer cells from the breast, lung and prostate "metastasize" (spread) to the bones. Conventional treatment relies primarily on external beam radiation and chemotherapy. Unfortunately, these treatments are not completely effective and many patients bear with inadequate pain relief.

The good news is that patients with localized bone cancer who fail to respond to conventional treatment may benefit from the symptomatic relief provided by radiofrequency ablation (RFA), according to Dr. Dennis C. Villanueva, a consultant vascular and interventional radiologist at the St. Luke's Medical Center.

Treatment for solid tumors

RFA is an image-guided minimally invasive treatment for solid tumors, explains Dr. Villanueva, the only local specialist who has completed one-year international training on RFA of organs other than the liver with cancerous tumors. It involves the insertion of a probe through the affected tissue and into the tumor with computerized tomography (CT) scan guidance and the delivery of alternating electrical current (radio frequency energy).

Heat is then generated at the site of the lesion through agitation caused by the alternating electrical current. This heat produces coagulation and cellular destruction, resulting in the ablation (removal) of the target cancer tissue. The tumor is literally "burned out." RFA's mode of action is similar to that of a microwave oven-heating from the inside out. The tumor reabsorbs the destroyed cells over a period of time.

RFA has been used in patients with persistent pain from a solitary focus of metastatic disease previously treated or in localized disease in which ablation therapy (tumor destruction) can be performed as an alternative to external beam radiotherapy. RFA can also be used in combination with conventional therapy such as external beam radiotherapy or some of the newer therapies such as vertebroplasty, a minimally invasive procedure that uses surgical cement to stabilize compressed vertebrae and alleviate pain, according to Dr. Villanueva.

"The largest clinical application of RFA is as an alternative to radiation therapy in relieving pain among patients with bone cancer," Dr. Villanueva says. Tumor growth and spread can be controlled safely with RFA in patients with highly localized disease. RFA can also be used as a combination treatment for larger tumors that do not respond well to radiation therapy alone.

"In any case, RFA should always be considered as a less invasive and probably less costly alternative for patients with small, well confined tumors," Dr. Villanueva notes. The procedure may also be an effective upfront cancer-cell (cytoreduction) treatment prior to conventional external beam radiation and/or systemic chemotherapy.

Potential advantages

According to Dr. Villanueva, RFA offers several potential advantages when compared with other treatment methods:

- Cancer cell death is immediate.
- Lesion size can be accurately controlled.
- Lesion temperature can be monitored.
- Electrode placement can be achieved with a percutaneous (through the skin) image-guided procedure.
- The procedure can be performed under local anesthesia and conscious sedation

Aside from the treatment of bone metastasis, CT-guided RFA has also been shown to be a cost-effective surgical alternative in the treatment of osteoid osteomas, Dr. Villanueva says. Osteoid osteoma is a small, benign but painful, circumscribed tumor of spongy bone occurring especially in the bones of the lower extremities and vertebrae, most often in children and young adults. Such patients typically suffer pain that worsens at night and responds to anti-inflammatory drugs. Traditional treatment involves en-bloc resection and surgery to relieve pain.

"Percutaneous CT-guided RFA is a minimally invasive, safe and effective alternative to the surgical and medical management of osteoid osteoma," says Dr. Villanueva. "With success rates similar to those for operative treatment, minimal complications and rapid recovery, percutaneous CT-guided RFA has largely eliminated the need for surgical treatment and long-term medical management."

* * *

Angelo Palmones is a science and technology broadcaster. For feedback, please e-mail the Healthcare Technology and Outcomes Information Bureau at inquire@htoib.com.

WORLD DIABETES DAY

Early diagnosis crucial for adults and children

By Tess S. Samaniego

DIABETES IS A GLOBAL epidemic with devastating human, social and economic consequences," the International Diabetes Federation stated. In fact, every 10 seconds one person dies of diabetes.

Once considered a health problem, diabetes has become for the first time a serious global health threat like infectious epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, the group claimed. The need to slow down the growing diabetes burden has pushed the United Nations to pass a resolution on diabetes in 2006.

The resolution recognizes "diabetes as a chronic, debilitating and costly disease associated with major complications that pose severe risks for families, countries and the entire world."

World Diabetes Day

In the Philippines alone there are 4.8 million adults diagnosed with diabetes in 2003, said Dr. Susan Yu-Gan of the Philippine Diabetes Association in a press briefing held last week for the World Diabetes Day.

Diabetes Day is being observed across the globe every Nov. 14 to raise public awareness on diabetes prevention and care through education and the mass media.

It was introduced by the IDF and the World Health Organization in response to the concern over the increasing number of people with diabetes around the world.

Gan said the Philippine figure does not include teenagers and children. In fact 50 percent of those who are afflicted with diabetes are not even aware that they have it.

"Diabetes is a growing problem and is now considered as an epidemic. By 2025, there will be an estimated 300 million cases of diabetes worldwide, majority of which are coming from Asia," Gan said.

Of those who have diabetes, about 90-95 percent are diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and the rest have Type 1.

According to the American Diabetes Association, in type 2 diabetes, either the body does not produce enough insulin or the cells ignore the insulin.

Previously known as juvenile diabetes, Type 1 diabetes is usually diagnosed in children and young adults. In this type of diabetes, the body does not produce insulin.

On the rise

Gan explained that the number of diabetes cases is on a steady rise. In 1994 it ranked 10th as cause of death in the Philippines and in 1999 it became No. 6. However, Gan said that the Philippines is still not among the countries where diabetes is gravely prevalent.

She also stressed that diabetes is a costly disease but once detected early, its treatment won't be as expensive.

"Everyone should be aware of the symptoms of diabetes such as excessive desire to eat, the passing of an excessive quantity of urine, excessive thirst, unexplained weight loss, blurring of vision, weakness and nonhealing of wounds," Gan said.

According to her, among the factors which may contribute to having diabetes, are obesity, hypertension, race and ethnicity, age, family history and physical inactivity.

By age 45, one should be tested for diabetes and this should be repeated every three years. While those who have risk factors or feel any of the symptoms, they should start testing earlier.

If left untreated or undiagnosed, diabetes may lead to serious complications such as heart attack, loss of sight, renal failure and stroke.

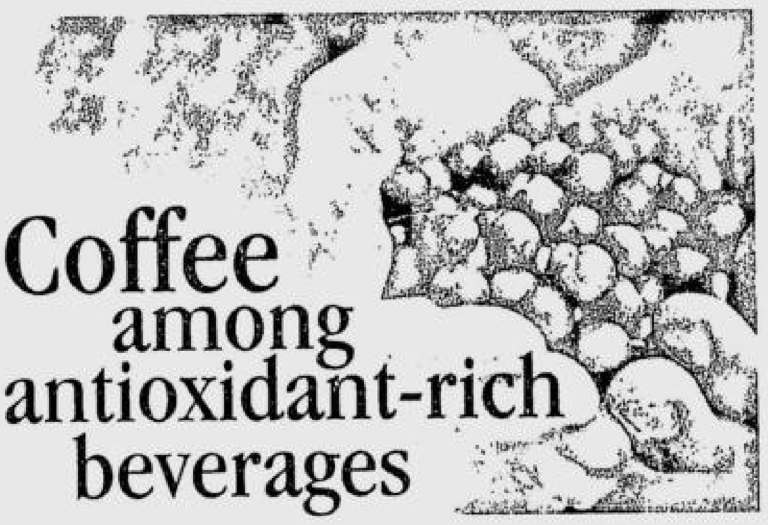
Recommendation

She recommends that once a person is diagnosed with diabetes one should consult with an endocrinologist and ask for various treatments available. A healthy diet and proper exercise can also help regulate sugar levels.

Gan noted that no matter how effective a medication may be, early diagnosis is very crucial for adults and children alike.

Thus, to help Filipinos become more aware of diabetes, Merck, Sharp & Dohme Pharmaceuticals has joined medical organizations and pharmaceutical firms in celebrating World Diabetes Day.

On its end, MSD recently sponsored Gimik Diabetes at the SMX convention center where lectures were given by Dr. Tommy S. Ty, president of Philippine Diabetes Association, entertainment was provided and free blood sugar testing was conducted.



Coffee among antioxidant-rich beverages

WHILE THE BODY NATURALLY produces antioxidants, it needs additional amounts of these molecules for it to remain in a constant state of wellness.

Antioxidants help neutralize the body's free radicals as they attack cell membranes and cause what is collectively known as oxidative stress, which has been suggested to cause premature aging and degenerative diseases of the cardiovascular, immune and nervous systems as well as cancer and cataracts

This is why doctors advise that we make antioxidant-rich beverages a part of our diet. Regular consumption of fruit-made drinks as well as coffee, tea and red wine, for example, are highly recommended.

Antioxidant-rich beverages

Antioxidant-rich beverages include those made from banana, cranberries, blueberries, blackberries, strawberries, apples, peaches, mangoes and melons. But while these fruits are readily available, not many people take them on a regular basis.

A study conducted by Dr. Joe Vinson, a leading chemist from the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania, showed that the average American only gets 294 mg of antioxidants from tea, 76 mg from beverages made from banana, 44 mg from red wine, and 32 mg from tomato juice.

Coffee tops list

The No. 1 source of antioxidants, Vinson's study showed, is in fact coffee, which gives the average American 1,300 milligrams of antioxidants daily. It topped the list of 100 antioxidant-rich food items that Americans consume.

Coffee contains rich amounts of the antioxidant phenol, which is associated with the lowering the risk of heart disease and diabetes, among others.

Although no similar studies have yet been made in the Philippines, the country has an undeniably rich "coffee culture" society. As a group of researchers from the University of the Philippines puts it, "Filipinos drink coffee in the morning regularly and during social gatherings."

So as it is with Americans, coffee continues to be a significant source of antioxidants for Filipinos. It is one of the best beverages that help us remain in a constant state of wellness.

KIDS QUIZ By Emman Cena

Food for thought

CHUBBY IS THE NEW COOL; IT'S THE new healthy, the new beautiful, says a report by the New York Times on Monday.

You may not be a runway material, but this does not mean that you are actually unfit and unhealthy. So kids, take some break, forget your perpetual dietary watch, and let those taste buds get good pampering. Besides, the Christmas season is near.

Let us check your knowledge of some of your favorite food by matching the kind of food on the left with its creator on the right.

Your quiz starts now. Burp burp.

Food	Creator
1. Bubble gum	a) Peter Cooper
2. Margarine	b) Forrest Mars Sr.
3. M&M's	c) Frank Epperson
4. Corn flakes	d) Captain Hanson Crockett Gregory
5. Instant gelatin	e) George Crum
6. Peanut butter	f) Walter E. Diemer
7. Donut	g) Dr. John Kellogg
8. Popsicle	h) Italo Marcioni
9. Ice cream cone	i) Will Keith Kellogg
10. Potato crisps	j) Hippolyte Mege-Mouries

Bonus question: Whose buds is behind the chocolate Hershey's label?

Score: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

HERSHEY'S
HERSHEY'S

Answer to the bonus question: Milton Hershey

Answers: 1-f, 2-j, 3-b, 4-i, 5-a, 6-g, 7-d, 8-c, 9-h, 10-e

Rainy days and male genes

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

TO PARAPHRASE THE QUESTION IN Christina Rosetti's poem, "Who has seen the rain?"

Those who have seen the buffalo herds of South Africa can raise their hands. Whether they knew it or not, the animals were proof that a single environmental factor can have a significant impact on the genes that get passed on from one generation to another.

The annual amount of rainfall the savannahs of South Africa get plays a role in determining how much food will be available to the animals that live there, and how the animals will interact with each other, the researchers wrote in their paper.

Unlike the X chromosome, which can come from either parent, the Y chromosome is an exclusively male hand-me-down. And because the genes on the Y chromosome don't easily exchange information with those on the X chromosome, researchers can use it to find out what genetic information is considered worthy of being saved and passed on from father to son.

Y chromosome variants

A recent study from the online journal PLoS One has linked the Y chromosome variants that a male African buffalo passes on to his offspring in a given year with the amount of rain that fell during the year prior to the calves' births. The calves don't look any different on the outside, but the genes that they inherit from their father can in turn affect the likelihood that they themselves will find females willing to mate with them and bear their offspring when they grow up.

The study was led by Pim van Hooft, a lecturer at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, in collaboration with colleagues from the United States. Van Hooft did a good portion of his graduate and postdoctoral research in South Africa studying the African buffalo.

Testing for the current study was done on herds at two South African parks between 1998 and 2004. Of the approximately 35,000 animals, researchers took blood samples from nearly 400 buffalo and then analyzed each animal's DNA to determine when they were born so that they could then look up the weather conditions for those time periods.

Taking the previous year's weather conditions into account mattered because unlike humans, a full-term pregnancy in the buffalo is about 340 days, van Hooft et al. wrote.

The researchers found that when the rainfall is heavier, there can be up to eight times as many calves with one particular Y chromosome variant. When the rainfall season is comparatively drier, a different variant predominates.

Buffalo's body condition

Another factor the researchers mention when it comes to passing on genes is the buffalo's body condition. Making sperm and keeping fit both require large resource investments, Van Hooft et al. wrote, and the male buffalo has to maintain a careful balancing act if he wants to do both. Choosing one over the other isn't really an option; fitness is a mating criterion for the females, who want to make sure they are getting the best possible fathers for their offspring.

"The strong relationship with male reproductive success makes the population composition and dynamics very sensitive to changes in rainfall pattern due to climate change, which may ultimately affect population viability," the authors wrote in their study, which appeared last month in the online journal PLoS One.

Van Hooft et al.'s statement supports their claim that a single environmental factor can affect the larger picture's final outcome. Rainy weather doesn't just affect a single male buffalo's chances at siring offspring; less rain because of global warming affects the Y chromosomes being handed down by the entire herd, and in turn could skew their future population.

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

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Source: All English Daily Readers in Greater Manila Area, read yesterday. Base: Synovate Media Atlas 2006-2007 (combined Waves 1-4).
Source: Nielsen Media Index 2007 Wave 1. Based on urban national yesterday broadsheet readers.

MWCI asks for hike in water rates

By Amy R. Remo

AYALA-OWNED MANILA WATER CO. INC. plans to increase its water rates next year, saying the tariff adjustment was necessary to cover additional capital expenses in the next 15 years.

In a public consultation yesterday, MWCI president Antonino Aquino said these planned investments, worth roughly P117 billion, would ensure the 24-hour supply of clean water to the growing population in the east zone.

The "indicative" average all-in tariff has been initially set at P34.04 a cubic meter, which MWCI plans to implement from 2008 to 2012.

Enough water

The current average all-in tariff is P20.54 a cubic meter.

Average all-in tariff refers to the mean of all the tariffs plus add-on costs related to MWCI's four customer types-residential, semibusiness, commercial and industrial.

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System-Regulatory Office chief Alberto C. Agra said yesterday that the proposed "indicative" tariff was just a working figure and may change after the public consultations.

Agra explained that the tariff increase would translate to an average increase of P187 in the monthly bill of residents consuming 30 cubic meters, or an increase of P6.20 a day.

If the current bill is P333 for residents with a 30-cubic-meter consumption, their bill would increase to P520 starting next year.

Increase takes effect in Jan.

Final tariff adjustments are set to be released to the public by Dec. 16, to enable MWCI to implement the increase on Jan. 1, 2008.

In his presentation, Aquino said the tariff increase was needed to ensure reliability of the supply of water to the east zone and to enable the expansion of services in the next 15 years.

"MWCI must prepare for the increase of population, effects of natural calamities and compliance with the Clean Water Act. To do so, major investments are needed to ensure a 24-hour water supply," he said.

New water sources

These investments include finding new water sources aside from Angat dam, where Metro Manila sources 97 percent of its water supply; the continuous repair, rehabilitation and laying down of pipelines to avoid leaks; and aggressive expansion of waste water program.

MWCI said it was currently implementing aggressive service expansion programs to reach the fringe areas of Taguig, Antipolo, San Mateo, Rodriguez, Cainta, Taytay and Angono.

Water supply projects have already started in the towns of Baras, Binangonan and Jalajala, all in Rizal.

Further service improvement and rehabilitation projects are also being undertaken in areas with 100-percent water coverage, which include the southeastern part of Quezon City, Mandaluyong City, San Juan, Marikina City, Pasig City, Pateros, the San Andres and Sta. Ana areas of Manila and the portion of Makati City east of the South Super Highway.

To help protect and preserve the environment, MWCI said it was also expanding its wastewater operations and sanitation services all over the east concession area and was now building septic treatment plants in San Mateo, Rizal, Pinugay in Antipolo and Food Terminal Complex in Taguig.

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"Developed with our most valued and distinguished customers in mind, the concept of the Singapore Airlines Suites is nothing less than groundbreaking in the luxury travel market," said Mr. Yap Kim Wah, Singapore Airlines' Senior Vice President Product and Services.

"Singapore Airlines Suites customers can look forward to a flight with an unprecedented level of personal space, in their very own private cabin in the sky. The exquisite new product offerings, together with the special service from our world-renowned cabin crew, will delight the most discerning of our customers."

The new Singapore Airlines Suites were designed cleverly to utilize space to make the flight experience even more luxurious.

Elegantly furnished, each of the Singapore Airlines Suites opens up to a plush and luxurious leather seat. In a perfect marriage of classic style, ergonomics and technology, each seat is upholstered in the finest leather, with an elegant pumpkin finish.

The seat is fully adjustable, with a simple-to-use electronic control panel to accommodate a variety of sitting and lounging positions.

For those who want to sleep, a full-sized flat bed, with plush mattress, is built into each individual Singapore Airlines Suite, and does not utilize the seat as part of the sleeping surface.

For couples traveling, the beds in the middle two seats can be converted to an optional double bed.

Lavish duvets and cushions ensure customers can drift into peaceful and comfortable sleep.

The intelligent design of the full flat bed not only offers customers the choice to rest in their preferred sleeping positions, but also allows them to sit or lounge in bed as they might in the comfort and privacy of their own home.

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For customers who need to catch up on work on board, their Singapore Airlines Suite can be transformed into a stylish office in the sky. Each Singapore Airlines Suite includes a chaise lounge for companion seating, ambient and mood lighting, luggage stowage space and a personal coat closet.

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Customers with laptops can tap into the in-seat power supply, while customers with just a thumb-drive can also get work done by plugging into the USB ports and utilizing the comprehensive suite of office tools available on KrisWorld; Singapore Airlines' award-winning inflight entertainment system.

KrisWorld: the biggest show in the sky just got bigger

Customers can sit back and be entertained, catching up on latest blockbusters, top-quality movies and TV programmes on the sleek 23-inch personal high-resolution widescreen LCD, mounted on the wall in each Suite. Or listen to a large selection of CDs on the accompanying premium headsets.

The new KrisWorld offers a wide selection of 100 movies, more than 180 TV programmes, a library of 700 music CDs, 3D games and more, with full audio and video on-demand. A new suite of office applications allows a customer to simply plug in a USB thumb-drive to save and edit files.

KrisWorld combines business with entertainment and information to provide customers the ultimate travel experience.

Inflight Amenities

Completing the luxurious experience is the exclusive Ferragamo amenity kit which will be presented to Singapore Airlines Suites customers on long haul flights. Exclusively available on the A380, the amenity kit features the latest fragrance, F by Salvatore Ferragamo, Ferragamo lip balm, hand cream and facial mist.

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Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

PROPERTY

Developer didn't deliver? Settle before you sue

By Tessa R. Salazar

THERE GOES YOUR retirement pay. Your developer has turned your dream beach rest house into a nightmare. You've paid for the property, and nothing but promises were produced.

INQUIRER Property asked the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board what options a buyer had in cases when the developer falls short of its guarantees.

Celina Kahanding, housing and home site regulation officer of the HLURB's legal services,

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Goldfinch Construction In Full Swing

Very soon, jetsetters and urbanites in Parañaque will be privileged to the refreshing lifestyle embodied in LuxureVille, as the Goldfinch Residence, one of the premium mid-rise condominium clusters in this contemporary tropical haven, makes significant headway in construction.

A groundbreaking development

A flagship project of world-class integrated property group Luxure Properties and Development Corporation (LPDC), in partnership with its marketing arm, Pan Asia Property Management, Inc., LuxureVille was inaugurated via a groundbreaking ceremony that took place at LuxureVille's actual location along Matthew Street in Multinational Village, Barangay Moonwalk, Parañaque City. The momentous occasion was graced by esteemed officials of the city of Parañaque headed by Parañaque City Mayor Florencio Bernabe, Jr. and 2nd District of Parañaque Congressman Rollo Golez. The occasion marked the formal commencement of LPDC's first venture for LuxureVille, the Goldfinch Residence, which posted a very encouraging sales performance after only a year since LuxureVille's official launch in November 2005. As Goldfinch takes shape to usher in the LuxureVille lifestyle, another benchmark in privileged living is well within reach for its residents.

Freedom in LuxureVille form

Espousing a lifestyle of spirited independence, LuxureVille is a welcoming community masterfully planned with elegantly-designed clusters of condominiums amidst a contemporary tropical setting. Each cluster is named after familiar tropical birds representing LuxureVille's central theme of freedom: Nightingale, Canary, Starling, Hummingbird, Toucan, Parakeet, and Goldfinch.

From every aspect of LuxureVille's entrancing layout-from structure to landscaping, from its entryways to interiors, and down to each impressive detail, LuxureVille symbolizes an intimate paradise that values your privacy. It energizes and cozies you up with its host of exclusive amenities. Invigorate your mornings by taking a walk or a jog along its landscaped jogging paths. Bask in nature's endearing ambiance as you surround yourself with the lush greenery and colorful blooms at the pocket gardens. Organize memorable get-togethers with friends and family at the clubhouse, with function rooms accommodating enough with their spacious layout. Relax the day away by the refreshing calm of the vanishing-edged pool as you are serenaded by the music of tropical birds at the inviting aviary nearby. Or elevate your sense of well-being as you indulge in the comforts of an exotic spa and get your body toned at the gym. Soar to even greater heights of pleasure at the sky garden, a one-of-a-kind feature in LuxureVille that mesmerizes you to a welcome sight of foliage and flowers, creating the perfect backdrop for fun activities and recreation. All these are for you to enjoy with total peace of mind as you are assured of a secure location within the prestigious Multinational Village and its own 24-hour security.

Apart from choice amenities and well-defined comforts, LuxureVille also gives you the freedom to go where you want to go, as LuxureVille's convenient location is just minutes away from key areas like Makati, Ortigas and the Manila Bay area, including nearby industrial parks in Laguna and Cavite. It also affords you with easy access to major roads and thoroughfares, such as the South Luzon Express and other main highways, and to main gateway points such as the Ninoy International Airport, Manila Harbor, and provincial bus stations. There are also three entry and exit points offering alternate routes away from heavy traffic areas. With LuxureVille you're assured of an ideal home that nurtures your ambitions and lets these take flight, without you ever having to abandon the city's conveniences.

Celebrate a newfound freedom in city living that evokes the liberty of being on your own, and loving every minute of it, elegantly, reassuringly and confidently-only at LuxureVille. There are 6 more LuxureVille condominium clusters waiting to be your home! Contact Pan Asia Property Management today at 840-2930, 840-2809, and 840-2904 and know how you can own a piece of the LuxureVille lifestyle through flexible financial packages. You may also visit www.luxureville.com

The comforts of free living

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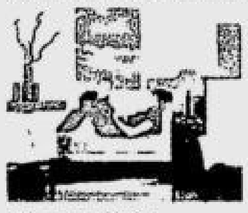
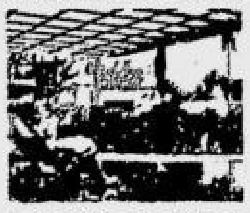
Simple joys are best shared in the comforts of a home you can call your own. Begin a life of independence nestled in the cozy luxuries of cheerful artistry and vibrant landscapes. Free living designed for new beginnings at LuxureVille.

Groundbreaking rites of the Goldfinch condominium this August means the LuxureVille lifestyle can be yours very soon! So make that move towards a life of comfort and true independence at LuxureVille. A place to call your own, a place easy to own.

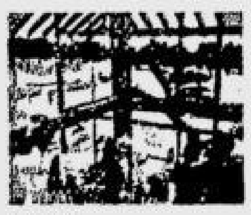
COMPLEMENT YOUR LUXUREVILLE LIFESTYLE WITH THESE AMENITIES:


Lifestyle Units


Vanishing-edged Pool

Sky Garden

Clubhouse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AWESOME STRUCTURES

Burj Dubai: King of the towering kings

By Emman Cena

THE UPCOMING YEAR IS EXPECTED TO be welcomed with a loud bang from firecrackers and merrymakers alike. But more than the welcome of thuds and thumps is the revelry accompanied with the unveiling of the world's tallest structure, the Burj Dubai.

Burj Dubai or the Dubai Tower is the skyscraper currently under construction in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. According to its developer, it will be the tallest free-standing structure in the world surpassing the Taipei 101 in Taiwan and the CN Tower in Canada.

The building, which is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2008, now stands at more than 690 meters (2,227 feet) but with its spire the total height could be over 800 m (2.640 ft). To date, the building's official website reports the completion of the 156th story. Construction of the building started in September 2004.

Scheduled for occupancy in September 2009, the building is is located at the First Interchange (a.k.a Defence Roundabout) at the corner of Sheikh Zayed Road and Doha Street. The spire of the building is expected to be seen from 100 km (60 miles) away.

Keep structural details secret

Emaar Properties, the building developer, is keeping structural details secret until now, keeping the public guessing as to what could be Burj Dubai's final height.

When finished, the building will have more than 160 floors and 56 double-decker elevators. It will house units of residential apartments, various shops, swimming pools, spas, corporate suites, Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani's first hotel and an observation platform on the 124th floor.

The building will also have the fastest elevators in the world with a speed of 700 m/min (42.3 kph or 26.1 mph), Emaar says.

City of the World

"It's a symbol of Dubai as a city of the world," Greg Sang, the project director for Emaar Properties, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Previous skyscraper record-holders include the Taipei 101 (1,671 ft), New York's Empire State Building (1,250 ft), Shanghai's Jin Mao Building (1,381 ft), Chicago's Sears Tower (1,451 ft), Malaysia's Petronas Towers (1,483 ft), and the CN Tower, in Toronto, Canada (1,815.3 ft).

Although its shape resembles that of the bundled tube concept of the Sears Tower, it is structurally very different and technically not a tube structure, its developer says. Designed by Adrian D. Smith (of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP), the triple-lobed footprint of Burj Dubai is based on an abstracted desert flower native to the region.

References: www.burjdubai.com, bbcnews.com, www.skyscraperpage.com, www.emporis.com

Megaworld completes One World Square

TOP RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS PROcess outsourcing (BPO) office condominiums developer Megaworld Corp. has completed its 1st BPO building in McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio.

One World Square is now ready to accept BPO tenants who are looking for a prime location near Makati and Ortigas, as well as the airport. The building is located right at the entrance to McKinley Hill, Megaworld's largest mixed-use township to date at 50 hectares.

Adjusts to space demands

The building is 11 stories high and provides 30,000 square meters of prime office space. The first office tower to feature varying floor plates, One World Square easily adjusts to the space demands of hypergrowth BPO fims, according to Megaworld FVP Jericho Go. The 2nd to 5th floor offices host 5,000 square meters of space and the 6th-7th floor, 2,000 square meters. The top four floors provide floor plates of 700 square meters.

"A 700-square-meter office is ideal for startups. But once stronger demand kicks in and they generate more accounts, then the business can grow by within the same premises. The building is in tune with the dynamics of the BPO business. Our lessees have considered this as an advantage, that is why they chose One World Square," Go proudly declared.

Within Cyberpark

Since the building is located within the McKinley Hill Cyberpark—which is accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) board as an ecozone—One World Square BPO tenants will be entitled to various fiscal and nonfiscal incentives, including income tax holidays.

In addition, shops such as McDonald's, Starbucks and 7-11 are now open or are set to open at One World Square's ground floor level to provide convenience to the tenants' workers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For inquiries about One World Square at McKinley Hill, interested BPOs and corporate locators may call 912-0708 or e-mail jcespinosa@megaworldcorp.com.

TOP residential and BPO buildings condominiums developer Megaworld Corp. announces the completion of One World Square at McKinley Hill.

Lafarge Semento goes beyond construction

WORLD'S LEADING CEment firm Lafarge Semento has gone far beyond construction, but not into another business or industry.

The fateful move, virtually showcased at the World Trade Center Metro Manila during the four-day international construction expo Philconstruct 2007, is also hardly about building quality houses, skyscrapers and modern cities as it does best.

"It's more about building a better quality of life for the markets and communities we serve than anything else," says Joel Lacsamana, vice president for corporate communications of Lafarge Cement Services Philippines Inc.

"But since the Lafarge Group operates in many countries worldwide, we might appear to be trying to build a better world as we hope we could," Lacsamana adds.

Worldwide, the Lafarge Group has taken a broad set of measures that promote and care for the well-being of its stakeholders in work safety, health, education and the environment.

Reduce energy demand

In the Philippines, Lafarge Semento is the first cement company to help the government respond to the challenge of climate change by reducing energy demand.

The company has partnered with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in commissioning and funding a study, which identifies the means to save up to P384 billion worth of energy and prevent 68.7-million metric tons of carbon dioxide pollutants.

The Emission Reduction through Energy Efficiency Study (EES), the first research tool of its kind that can be used to facilitate policies in decreasing energy demand, makes Lafarge Semento the first Philippine cement company to help the government respond to global warming.

"The WWF-Lafarge partnership also tackles climate change solutions by producing blended cement products that are environment-friendly," Lacsamana says.

At the same time, the company uses rice husks, instead of coal, as fuel for its Republic Cement kilns in Rizal and Bulacan. This also reduces carbon dioxide emissions and generates income for farmers who sell rice husks to the company.

With its strong commitment to the community and the environment, Lafarge Semento's Republic Cement plant in Bulacan received the Titanium Presidential Mineral Industry Award in 1998, 1999 and 2002.

Only last year, Lafarge Semento plants earned from the Philippine Mines Safety and Environment Association the distinction as the country's "Safest Cement Plants" and were adjudged as the "Leaders in Energy Efficiency" through the Don Emilio Abello Energy Efficiency Award given by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Lafarge Semento also partnered with the indigenous communities in the Sierra Madre mountain range to adopt six hectares of the endangered Ipo Watershed in Norzagaray, Bulacan where the company initially planted over 1,000 trees. The project is envisioned to become a nationwide reforestation program for similarly threatened watershed areas.

Social responsibility

These so-called corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects are focused, not only on the environment, but also directly on people.

"In health and safety, Lafarge Semento has rolled out the Mason Kaakbay Safety and Insurance Program," Lacsamana points out.

The program provides safety training and insurance coverage, through partner Philamlife Insurance, to thousands of Filipino masons nationwide.

This year, Lafarge Semento has partnered with Ateneo-based Abakada Foundation, the Japanese Embassy and the Surigao government to build in Mindanao the world's first Earthbag schools.

The schools are made of earth packed in plastic bags, which are held together by steel and cement to form a strong but cost-effective structure.

The company has also built schoolhouses in Bulacan, donated lands and helped build Gawad Kalinga houses in Iligan and Danao cities.

"Clearly, Lafarge Semento's business strength lies in the original ways in which it works to improve the daily life of its stakeholders while helping build a more sustainable world," Lacsamana says.

LAFARGE exhibit at Philconstruct 2007

Sentricon the best preventive measure vs termites

EILEEN MACAPAGAL, ERSTWHILE ACtress and wife of TV host-comedian Joey de Leon, understands the value of having a peaceful and stable home. She admitted that she still learns a lot from parenting, and continues to dedicate herself to keeping her husband and children comfortable in their haven of two decades in Quezon City.

"I'm a housewife, so I'm very particular with order and cleanliness," Eileen said. "I think mommies are naturally protective. When the time came for me to be one, I became aware of many responsibilities to fulfill before I could rest at the end of the day. As a mom, you're more aware which spots of the house are damaged, for example. But you also know how to correct the defects. You'll be meticulous in terms of making sure that your family is safe and secure."

First sign of termite attack

In another exclusive subdivision in Quezon City, Eileen is having a house rented out. The 15-year-old property is also being taken care of, according to Eileen. But as it isn't always lived in, some things have remained unnoticed by tenants, until major damage had been inflicted. "The first sign of termite attack we noticed was under the stairway. We quickly called our regular pest control for a liquid termiticide treatment," she shared.

Three months later, to Eileen's surprise, the pesky termites were back. "A new tenant was about to move into the house when I caught sight of new termite trails. I realized that when a place is quiet and has no activity, the pests tend to take advantage. I had the house treated with the same chemical solution again but it was not enough to keep the termites from coming back," she revealed, "We finally decided on trying the Sentricon System to prevent further damage from happening."

TV host-comedian Joey de Leon with wife Eileen

Internationally acclaimed

Sentricon, manufactured by Dow AgroSciences, is an internationally acclaimed product that makes use of baiting stations to trap wood-devouring termites. Harmless to humans and odorless, the Sentricon technology can only be installed and monitored by authorized operators. Topbest Pest Services Inc. (681-1823/1593; 0917-8341610), a local pest professional group duly accredited, was highly recommended by Eileen's family friend for the house's termite problem.

"Joey and I have been renting out this house since day one. Since we don't live there, there's the tendency that it'll be more prone to termite infestations. If you live there and you're the owner, you'll notice the slightest changes in the house because you wouldn't want your house to collapse, have leaks or other problems. Since we don't stay there, we wanted to make sure that the house's quality is being maintained, so Sentricon acts as its protector from termites."

Eileen explained that its features were indeed pleasing and impressive. "We recommend the Sentricon Baiting System, because it's the most effective and most convenient to use," she said.

"We tell our friends about it. Usually, when you use the chemical sprays, in less than a year, you see infestations of termites again. You keep spraying but they keep returning. Plus, the chemicals aren't pleasant-looking; after the treatment, there's a milky substance that you still have to clean up. Using the traditional chemicals is hard, because you have to move the furniture, too. You have to monitor where the technicians are injecting the treatment. Sometimes they might have to drill your tiles. It's hard, messy and costly."

Keeping structure protected

Christopher Villacer, Topbest's area supervisor, shared that the cozy house had previously been attacked by the most relentless type of termite. "We installed monitoring stations around the perimeter of the house and will check these regularly to prevent and eliminate termite colonies."

Joey and Eileen added that Sentricon continues to keep the structure protected, minus the typical hassles. "The system is quick and our tenants are not bothered. The tenants are happy knowing that they are being taken care of. We rent out the house, but we still take care of it."

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(For more inquiries, log on to http://www.hlurb.gov.ph/page/home, or call the HLURB hotline at 927-3061).

Burj Dubai: King of the towering kings

By Emman Cena

THE UPCOMING YEAR IS EXPECTED TO be welcomed with a loud bang from firecrackers and merrymakers alike. But more than the welcome of thuds and thumps is the revelry accompanied with the unveiling of the world's tallest structure, the Burj Dubai.

Burj Dubai or the Dubai Tower is the skyscraper currently under construction in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. According to its developer, it will be the tallest free-standing structure in the world surpassing the Taipei 101 in Taiwan and the CN Tower in Canada.

The building, which is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2008, now stands at more than 690 meters (2,227 feet) but with its spire the total height could be over 800 m (2.640 ft). To date, the building's official website reports the completion of the 156th story. Construction of the building started in September 2004.

Scheduled for occupancy in September 2009, the building is is located at the First Interchange (a.k.a Defence Roundabout) at the corner of Sheikh Zayed Road and Doha Street. The spire of the building is expected to be seen from 100 km (60 miles) away.

AWESOME STRUCTURES

Keep structural details secret

Emaar Properties, the building developer, is keeping structural details secret until now, keeping the public guessing as to what could be Burj Dubai's final height.

When finished, the building will have more than 160 floors and 56 double-decker elevators. It will house units of residential apartments, various shops, swimming pools, spas, corporate suites, Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani's first hotel and an observation platform on the 124th floor.

The building will also have the fastest elevators in the world with a speed of 700 m/min (42.3 kph or 26.1 mph), Emaar says.

City of the World

"It's a symbol of Dubai as a city of the world," Greg Sang, the project director for Emaar Properties, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

Previous skyscraper record-holders include the Taipei 101 (1,671 ft), New York's Empire State Building (1,250 ft), Shanghai's Jin Mao Building (1,381 ft), Chicago's Sears Tower (1,451 ft), Malaysia's Petronas Towers (1,483 ft), and the CN Tower, in Toronto, Canada (1,815.3 ft).

Although its shape resembles that of the bundled tube concept of the Sears Tower, it is structurally very different and technically not a tube structure, its developer says. Designed by Adrian D. Smith (of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP), the triple-lobed footprint of Burj Dubai is based on an abstracted desert flower native to the region.

References: www.burjdubai.com, bbcnews.com, www.skyscraperpage.com, www.emporis.com

Megaworld completes One World Square

TOP RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS PROCESS outsourcing (BPO) office condominiums developer Megaworld Corp. has completed its 1st BPO building in McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio.

One World Square is now ready to accept BPO tenants who are looking for a prime location near Makati and Ortigas, as well as the airport. The building is located right at the entrance to McKinley Hill, Megaworld's largest mixed-use township to date at 50 hectares.

Adjusts to space demands

The building is 11 stories high and provides 30,000 square meters of prime office space. The first office tower to feature varying floor plates, One World Square easily adjusts to the space demands of hypergrowth BPO fims, according to Megaworld FVP Jericho Go. The 2nd to 5th floor offices host 5,000 square meters of space and the 6th-7th floor, 2,000 square meters. The top four floors provide floor plates of 700 square meters.

"A 700-square-meter office is ideal for startups. But once stronger demand kicks in and they generate more accounts, then the business can grow by within the same premises. The building is in tune with the dynamics of the BPO business. Our lessees have considered this as an advantage, that is why they chose One World Square," Go proudly declared.

Within Cyberpark

Since the building is located within the McKinley Hill Cyberpark—which is accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) board as an ecozone—One World Square BPO tenants will be entitled to various fiscal and nonfiscal incentives, including income tax holidays.

In addition, shops such as McDonald's, Starbucks and 7-11 are now open or are set to open at One World Square's ground floor level to provide convenience to the tenants' workers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For inquiries about One World Square at McKinley Hill, interested BPOs and corporate locators may call 912-0708 or e-mail jcespinosa@megaworldcorp.com.

TOP residential and BPO buildings condominiums developer Megaworld Corp. announces the completion of One World Square at McKinley Hill.

Sentricon the best preventive measure vs termites

EILEEN MACAPAGAL, ERSTWHILE ACtress and wife of TV host-comedian Joey de Leon, understands the value of having a peaceful and stable home. She admitted that she still learns a lot from parenting, and continues to dedicate herself to keeping her husband and children comfortable in their haven of two decades in Quezon City.

"I'm a housewife, so I'm very particular with order and cleanliness," Eileen said. "I think mommies are naturally protective. When the time came for me to be one, I became aware of many responsibilities to fulfill before I could rest at the end of the day. As a mom, you're more aware which spots of the house are damaged, for example. But you also know how to correct the defects. You'll be meticulous in terms of making sure that your family is safe and secure."

First sign of termite attack

In another exclusive subdivision in Quezon City, Eileen is having a house rented out. The 15-year-old property is also being taken care of, according to Eileen. But as it isn't always lived in, some things have remained unnoticed by tenants, until major damage had been inflicted. "The first sign of termite attack we noticed was under the stairway. We quickly called our regular pest control for a liquid termiticide treatment," she shared.

Three months later, to Eileen's surprise, the pesky termites were back. "A new tenant was about to move into the house when I caught sight of new termite trails. I realized that when a place is quiet and has no activity, the pests tend to take advantage. I had the house treated with the same chemical solution again but it was not enough to keep the termites from coming back," she revealed, "We finally decided on trying the Sentricon System to prevent further damage from happening."

TV host-comedian Joey de Leon with wife Eileen

Internationally acclaimed

Sentricon, manufactured by Dow AgroSciences, is an internationally acclaimed product that makes use of baiting stations to trap wood-devouring termites. Harmless to humans and odorless, the Sentricon technology can only be installed and monitored by authorized operators. Topbest Pest Services Inc. (681-1823/1593; 0917-8341610), a local pest professional group duly accredited, was highly recommended by Eileen's family friend for the house's termite problem.

"Joey and I have been renting out this house since day one. Since we don't live there, there's the tendency that it'll be more prone to termite infestations. If you live there and you're the owner, you'll notice the slightest changes in the house because you wouldn't want your house to collapse, have leaks or other problems. Since we don't stay there, we wanted to make sure that the house's quality is being maintained, so Sentricon acts as its protector from termites."

Eileen explained that its features were indeed pleasing and impressive. "We recommend the Sentricon Baiting System, because it's the most effective and most convenient to use," she said.

"We tell our friends about it. Usually, when you use the chemical sprays, in less than a year, you see infestations of termites again. You keep spraying but they keep returning. Plus, the chemicals aren't pleasant-looking; after the treatment, there's a milky substance that you still have to clean up. Using the traditional chemicals is hard, because you have to move the furniture, too. You have to monitor where the technicians are injecting the treatment. Sometimes they might have to drill your tiles. It's hard, messy and costly."

Keeping structure protected

Christopher Villacer, Topbest's area supervisor, shared that the cozy house had previously been attacked by the most relentless type of termite. "We installed monitoring stations around the perimeter of the house and will check these regularly to prevent and eliminate termite colonies."

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Lafarge Semento goes beyond construction

WORLD'S LEADING CEment firm Lafarge Semento has gone far beyond construction, but not into another business or industry.

The fateful move, virtually showcased at the World Trade Center Metro Manila during the four-day international construction expo Philconstruct 2007, is also hardly about building quality houses, skyscrapers and modern cities as it does best.

"It's more about building a better quality of life for the markets and communities we serve than anything else," says Joel Lacsamana, vice president for corporate communications of Lafarge Cement Services Philippines Inc.

"But since the Lafarge Group operates in many countries worldwide, we might appear to be trying to build a better world as we hope we could," Lacsamana adds.

Worldwide, the Lafarge Group has taken a broad set of measures that promote and care for the well-being of its stakeholders in work safety, health, education and the environment.

Reduce energy demand

In the Philippines, Lafarge Semento is the first cement company to help the government respond to the challenge of climate change by reducing energy demand.

The company has partnered with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in commissioning and funding a study, which identifies the means to save up to P384 billion worth of energy and prevent 68.7-million metric tons of carbon dioxide pollutants.

The Emission Reduction through Energy Efficiency Study (EES), the first research tool of its kind that can be used to facilitate policies in decreasing energy demand, makes Lafarge Semento the first Philippine cement company to help the government respond to global warming.

"The WWF-Lafarge partnership also tackles climate change solutions by producing blended cement products that are environment-friendly," Lacsamana says.

At the same time, the company uses rice husks, instead of coal, as fuel for its Republic Cement kilns in Rizal and Bulacan. This also reduces carbon dioxide emissions and generates income for farmers who sell rice husks to the company.

With its strong commitment to the community and the environment, Lafarge Semento's Republic Cement plant in Bulacan received the Titanium Presidential Mineral Industry Award in 1998, 1999 and 2002.

Only last year, Lafarge Semento plants earned from the Philippine Mines Safety and Environment Association the distinction as the country's "Safest Cement Plants" and were adjudged as the "Leaders in Energy Efficiency" through the Don Emilio Abello Energy Efficiency Award given by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Lafarge Semento also partnered with the indigenous communities in the Sierra Madre mountain range to adopt six hectares of the endangered Ipo Watershed in Norzagaray, Bulacan where the company initially planted over 1,000 trees. The project is envisioned to become a nationwide reforestation program for similarly threatened watershed areas.

Social responsibility

These so-called corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects are focused, not only on the environment, but also directly on people.

"In health and safety, Lafarge Semento has rolled out the Mason Kaakbay Safety and Insurance Program," Lacsamana points out.

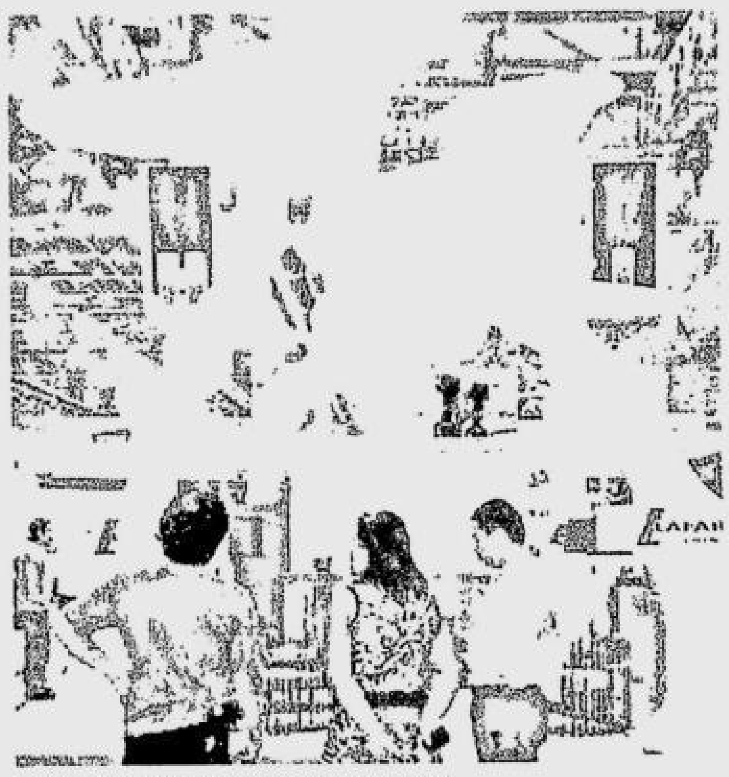
The program provides safety training and insurance coverage, through partner Philamlife Insurance, to thousands of Filipino masons nationwide.

This year, Lafarge Semento has partnered with Ateneo-based Abakada Foundation, the Japanese Embassy and the Surigao government to build in Mindanao the world's first Earthbag schools.

The schools are made of earth packed in plastic bags, which are held together by steel and cement to form a strong but cost-effective structure.

The company has also built schoolhouses in Bulacan, donated lands and helped build Gawad Kalinga houses in Iligan and Danao cities.

"Clearly, Lafarge Semento's business strength lies in the original ways in which it works to improve the daily life of its stakeholders while helping build a more sustainable world," Lacsamana says.



LAFARGE exhibit at Philconstruct 2007

Developer didn't deliver? . . .

From page B2-1

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Agri-tourism

MANY CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD are spending more and more time indoors using computers. The average number of hours may range from one to three every day. This is in addition to the time they spend in front of television and video games. This situation can place children at increased risk for repetitive stress injuries, eye strain, obesity and other health hazards due to a sedentary lifestyle. They are also exposed to the harmful effects of toxic emissions from new computer equipment and electromagnetic radiation from old video monitors.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

This is the reason many children today have no idea of how it feels to be outdoors, to see animals and plants or simply to be close to nature. Virtual reality has taken over their perception of what the real world is. Researchers realize now that many of these children are suffering from what is called nature deficit disorder. This type of disorder is the cumulative effect of withdrawing nature from children's experiences.

To reverse this trend and to fulfill many people's desire for their families to enjoy the clean unpolluted air of the countryside, many communities worldwide are now going back to nature by turning into the growing business of agricultural tourism or simply agri-tourism. After all, new research shows that nature is a powerful therapy for depression, obesity and other types of illnesses and disorders.

Agri-tourism

In many countries, agri-tourism evolved as a result of the loss of traditional farm income due to modern global agricultural economy. Farm owners developed creative ways to educate, entertain and even influence the way people looked at farms and how they relate to them.

Children are particularly attracted to these farms because of the chance to experience firsthand what and how it feels to see where most of their food comes from amid a natural and green environment.

Taiwan

This new generation of farms is now popular in Taiwan which attracts people who have not been exposed to rural culture before and who want to enjoy agricultural products. The total number of visitors is expected to reach 30,000 to 40,000 people this year.

United States

The United States has several farms that are designed for agri-tourism. Many farms have been transformed into full-theme parks complete with petting zoos, hay rides, discovery farms, school field trips and unusual dining treats and places. One of the most famous and successful farms is the Knott's Berry Farm which started as a traditional berry farm.

Many of these farms emphasize the value of utilizing organic methods of growth. They stress the importance of using only natural methods of growing their produce, in contrast to other methods that depend heavily on toxic pesticides and fertilizers.

Philippines

The concept of agri-tourism has also caught up in the Philippines. One successful project is the Leisure Farms Tagaytay in Lemery, Batangas, which is designed to entertain and educate people of various ages on the many benefits of a close communion with nature through farming.

The farm, designed like a nature park, is an interesting educational environment for students and children who may want to be professional farmers in the future.

The leisure farms, spanning 13 hectares of green development, feature a fish pond and a fishing lake near the entrance. Its village store, which serves Figaro coffee and sandwiches, welcomes visitors where they can relax upon arrival. Visitors can also stock on homegrown fruits and vegetables from the farm market. They can enjoy homemade confections and pickled products.

AGRI-TOURISM offered by Leisure Farms Tagaytay creates nature experiences using the latest eco-friendly agricultural technology.

The farm offers visitors, who are not too familiar with farming methods, an informative tour of the site showing hydrophonic farming on soilless planting and organic planting using worms.

As part of its biological/organic farming, the farm features vermicomposting using earthworms called African night crawlers that make fertilizers faster than the garden variety earthworms.

Special garden plots for spices, a corn maze, a flower trail, a climate-controlled greenhouse for anthuriums, a koi pond, a bird sanctuary, a butterfly garden and a long forest trail are good reasons the farm is a popular destination for families with growing children and students.

For farm-loving city dwellers or "hobby farmers," the leisure farm is a second home where their families experience the thrills of tending their own farm and enjoying the bounties of the land.

In the middle of our fast-paced world, now is the time to turn more and more to nature to counter the anxiety, stress and tension of everyday life.

* * *

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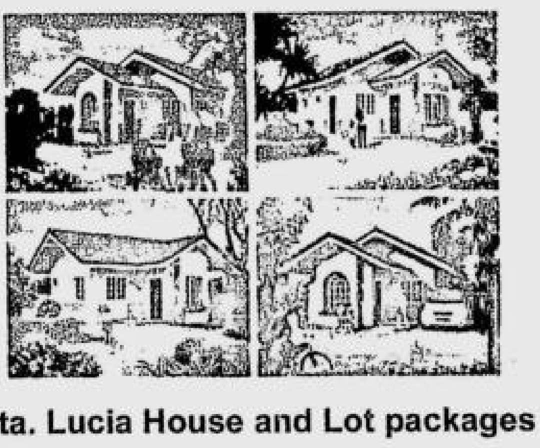
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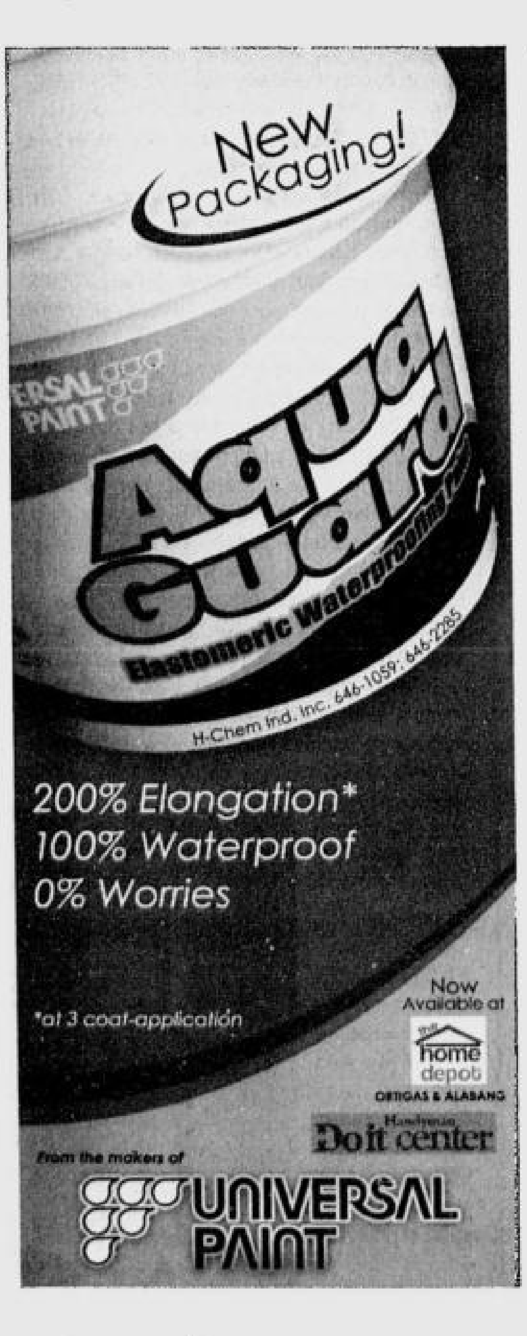
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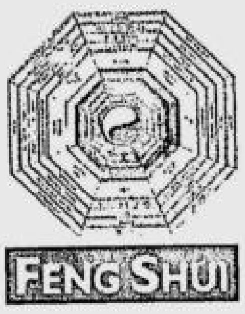
Have a colorful Christmas

By Tess S. Samaniego

FILIPINOS LOVE TO CELEBRATE Christmas in a very "colorful" manner.



While mixing and matching vibrant hues add a lot of fun and zest to the holiday mood, feng shui reminds us that there may be wisdom in heeding the Chinese phrase "five colors blind," which means that using too many colors may have a numbing effect on homes and its owners.

Colors and their meanings

For a more "balanced" Christmas home decorating, here is a list of colors and their respective meanings according to feng shui.

- **Gold and Silver**—can strengthen your intuition; represent ostentation, money and fame.
- **Red**—the color of life; most auspicious color of all; relates to growth, happiness and joy; great energizer representing deep and passionate love; believed to keep away evil forces.
- **Blue**—represents spiritualism, thoughtfulness and consideration; associated with faith, constancy and fidelity; cooling and calming.
- **Purple**—often considered more auspicious than red; associated with high ideals, loyalty, truth, love and suffering; often the color of high nobility indicating power, riches and fortunes.
- **White**—is the color of mourning; said to have no life, no color; color of purity, innocence and naivety; feng shui prefers you not to use this color.
- **Pink**—is healing; represents love and romance; a very soothing color; raises vibrations so it is a very healthy color to have around you; represents joy, happiness and especially romance.
- **Multicolored**—represents the union of all the colors in the spectrum and each color will impart its special nature; make sure that multicolored decorations are always used on green Christmas trees as the green balances whole system and brings order and harmony.

While red may be the most associated color to Christmas, feng shui advises to use plenty of green to tone and balance the red fire energy.

Pine green is said to be a cooling color. The use of plants can cool the atmosphere and bring peace and good feelings. "Green also absorbs the fire energy created by [Christmas] lights as well as the warmth generated" by crowds.

Adding good luck

Meanwhile, to add good luck to your homes, feng shui likewise recommends the use of angels and cherubs.

Burning candles is also advised to purify all energy centers. The closer one is to the fire, the higher the benefits for his or her energy field. However, feng shui advises to avoid burning candles in the east.

Essential oils in a candle or electric diffuser may also be used to keep the air fresh and the energy levels balanced. Pine, eucalyptus, ilang-ilang and neroli are among the recommended oils.

Lastly, feng shui reminds us to be always creative in decorating our homes and open to change. Happy decorating!

(Sources: http://fengshui.about.com and http://www.valentine.gr/fengshui_Christmas1_en.htm)

metropolitan

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Be in the *m*iddle of the action.

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PHILTOWN
Philtown Properties
Building Masterpieces.

Visit our weekend open house this whole month of November! Get in the middle of the action with a special triathlon clinic by Ige Lopez on November 24 from 8am until 12nn!

The Metropolitan Club will be ready for use by February 2008!

Philtown: Building Masterpieces

Man's need for shelter has evolved from concrete caves, to sturdy huts, to comfortable houses, and, finally, to the more sophisticated high-rise, modern condominiums. Even his sense for the aesthetics has become richer, and his needs, more complex. Scoliosis

At this day and age, with work being what it is, what little time you have left for yourself is often spent running errands, or braving traffic to get to where you have to go. So where does home fit in? Depending on your preferences, you can either favor breaking away from the hustle and bustle of the city by nesting in a homey environment, or you can live it up in a low-maintenance condo where everything and anything you need is within reach. You might even want paradise in the middle of the city, enjoying the lush scenery without sacrificing the conveniences of urban living.

Whatever tickles your fancy, Philtown Properties has foreseen it, catered to it, and improved on the idea in ways that can only be described as masterful.

Among their premier projects are One Mckinley Place, the classy Fairways Tower, and the stylish, The Metropolitan and student friendly W.H. Taft Residences.

The Metropolitan, a relatively new deluxe residential project, is part of a distinct, self-contained and complete community where everything you need is within walking distance. Need a book? Want to watch a movie? Feel like sweating it out in the country club? The Metropolitan makes all these available.

What's more is that it allows its tenants or members free and complete access to what is foreseen as the country's foremost athletic club, Metropolitan Athletic Club (MAC). This sports complex boasts of a full range of sports and recreational facilities.

Soaring High with Metropolitan Sky Lofts

Among the many perks of The Metropolitan are the Sky Lofts. Housed within the cutting edge architectural magnum opus of renowned designers Recio and Casas, The Metropolitan Sky Lofts is considered the best in its class owing to the units' magnificent view of Makati's breathtaking skyline.

Each unit is given two floors ranging from 100 to 200 square meters. With two or three bedrooms, the fantastic view, and your own imagination, you, too, can live at the very tips of the rabbit¢s white furs.

Think about it: above you, the clear, blue sky, and right below, the busy city. Surrounded by full glass windows on three sides, you can truly connect to the creation without leaving your home. What more can you ask for? With Sky Lofts, you¢re living in a plane that can only be described as surreal.

The tallest tower in the block, The Metropolitan features one hundred five Sky Loft units, twenty-eight of which have three-side corners, with twenty-foot, full-view glass windows on each side, giving you a sense of being surrounded by the sky.

The Metropolitan gives you more room for creativity by keeping the rules loose. With the aid of one of the Philippines¢ top designer, Ed Calma, your Sky Loft unit can be whatever you want it to be. Its bareness serves as a canvas. He expounds: "The over-riding thread in the bare design is the severity of lines, the starkness of the walls giving the illusion of bigger space. And this space is hovering above everything else, giving an incredible feeling of being on top!"

Indeed, the magnificent view from this vantage point unifies the interior and exterior into one expansive natural space. In the designer's words, "you got openness, the experience of nature and everything else, all in one area."

Interested? Contact Philtown at their Philippine office at 818-2330 or 890-5714. And you can also send inquiries at 0917-8536539 or email sales@philtown.net.

This week Super means Sidewalk· Underpass· Pedestrian· Expressway· Red light STRUT WITH SUPER

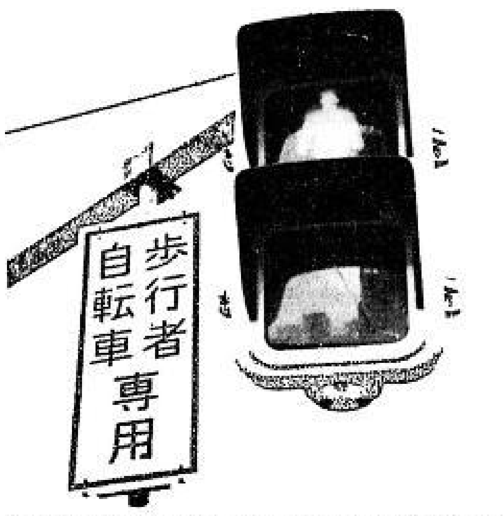
COVER PHOTOS BY PAOLO R. REYES

Rock and road

FLY WITH SUPER ▶▶
Pilot: Pam Pastor · Co-Pilot: Katrina A. Holigores · First Officers: Tais Diaz, James Gabrillo, Wanggo Gallaga, Juana Manahan, Paolo Reyes · Air Traffic Controller: Abel Ulanday · Cabin Crew: Belen Belesario, L.A. Mistades · Ground Control: Me-ann Ayos, Rissa Camongol, Lilie Lazaro

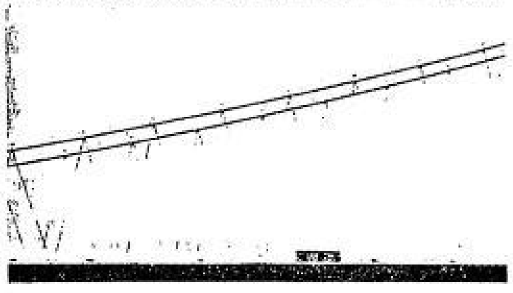
Streetwalk/ catwalk

by James Gabrillo



Sign of the times

by Paolo R. Reyes

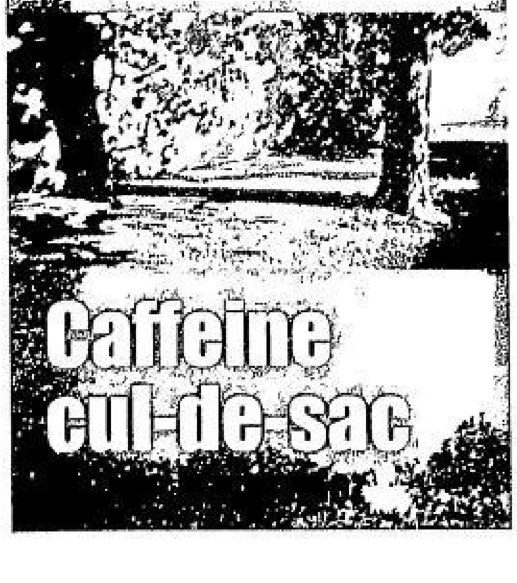


The digital highway

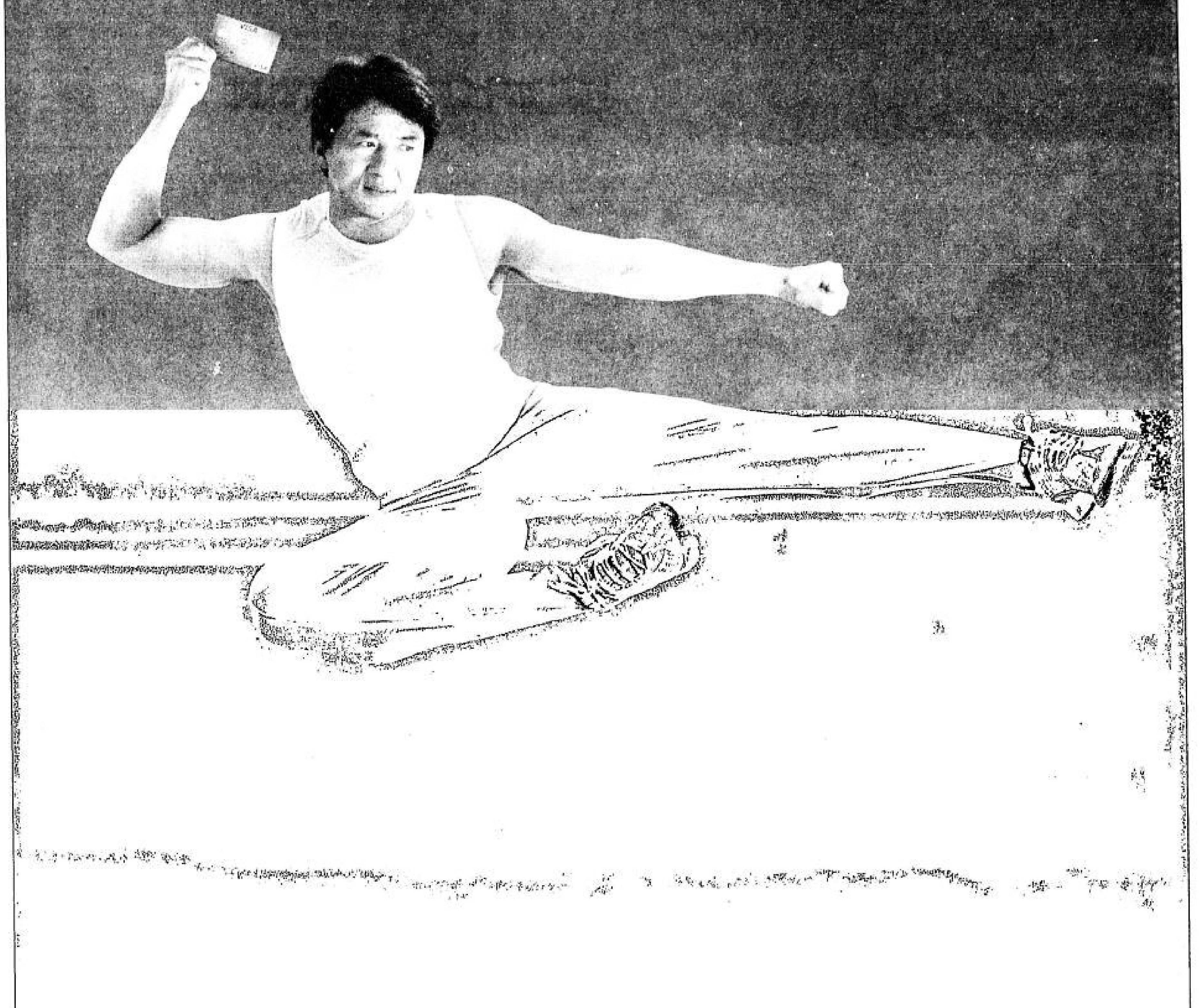
by Tais Diaz

Art-stopping traffic

by Juana R. Manahan



Caffeine cul-de-sac



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VISA WORLDWIDE PARTNER

Street dreams are made of these

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

(Antipolo Street, Manila)

SELLING OUR OLD house meant so much more than just saying goodbye to the place that witnessed my growth as a person—from pesky little bookworm to crazy singing/writing freak.

It meant having to let go of the street I've called mine for so many years, the street I found easy to take for granted because I thought it would be a constant in my life.

There wasn't much to love about that street, at least not at first glance. It used to get flooded, unbelievably flooded. It was messy, with dirty half-naked toddlers running around and jeepneys that have no concept of proper parking.

Some mornings you'd wake up to news that a neighbor had stabbed another neighbor. Some mornings you'd hear screaming. But the truth is, I loved that street. My grandpa grew up there. My dad grew up there. I treasured the few times I was allowed outside, to play street hockey and volleyball. I remember being chased down that road by my grandpa who wanted to put medicine on my bleeding wounds. I have fond memories of walking home with a huge group of friends—my house was one of our hideouts whenever we'd cut class at the university.

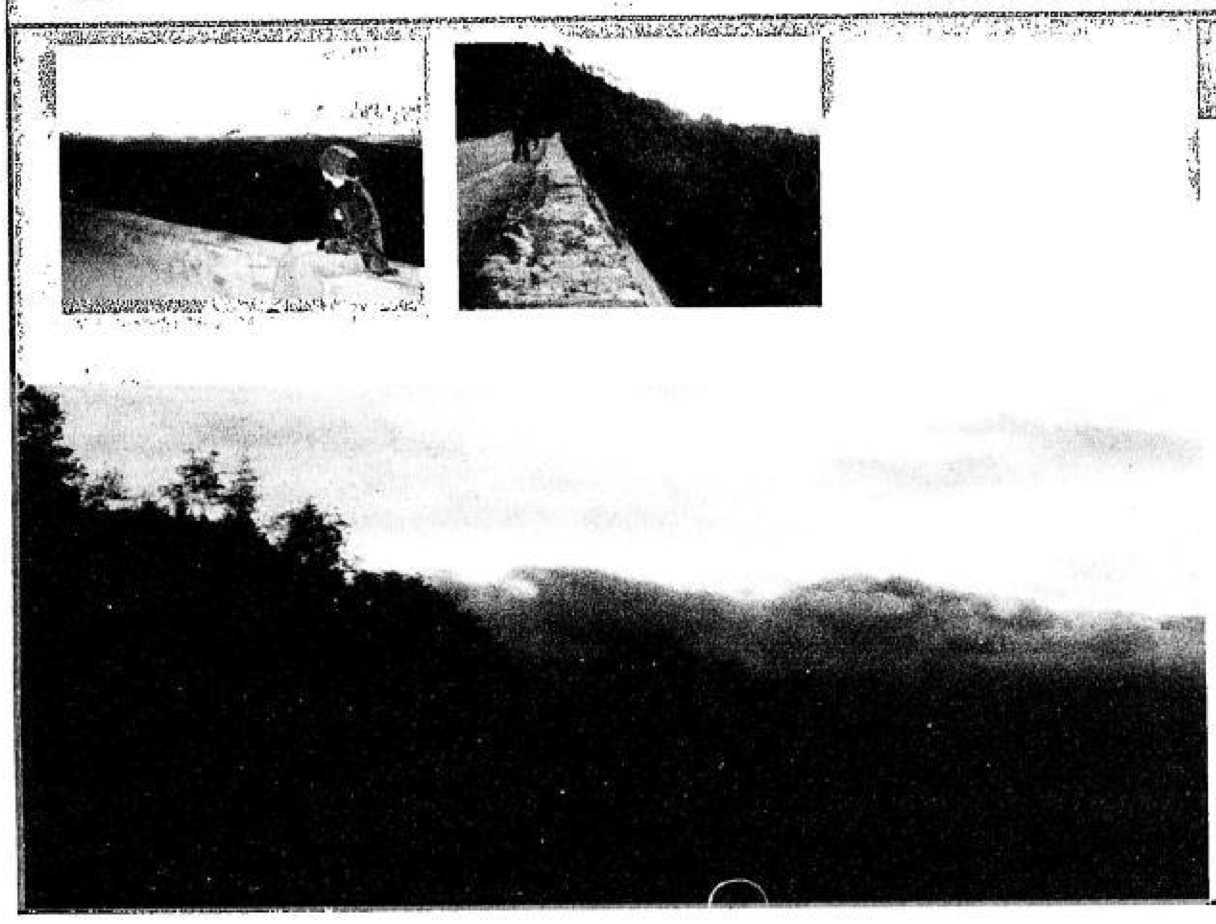
That street used to help me figure out if I really liked who I was dating—if, after they dropped me off, I felt compelled to watch their car disappear into my street's darkness from the living room window.

My cousin's still on that street, so I still get to visit it. But it no longer feels like mine. I was sad for a while, until I realized that saying goodbye to one street meant saying hello to many others.

Since the time we drove away from my old house with the last of my junk, so many other streets have welcomed me and have offered me great adventures—and no dirty half-naked toddlers. Streets I didn't know existed, streets that now hold the most insane of memories. There is no time left for mourning the loss of one street, not when I have countless more to conquer.

Street stalkers

Take a stroll with The Super Crew and trip out on their road works



A road with a view

Text and photos by Katrina A. Holigores

(Mystery road, Baguio)

IT WAS ALMOST LIKE A RITE of passage. An escapade up north that started in the dead of night.

The end point was Baguio, one day before the end of February three years ago. My professional career had hit a speed bump and I was dating a guy who could best be described as a dead end.

Going nowhere it seemed, I was then asked by an indie-hero to come along to shoot a "roadtrip" travel show. The invitation was like a kiss from an angel, and at a red-eyed hour we set off for the NLEX and up, up and away we drove to the City of Pines.

The plan was to cover the floral festival known as Panagbenga, but before that, indie-hero intimated, he wanted to show me a road he had discovered.

It looked deserted and abandoned at ungodly hours but was traffic jammed and virtually impassable as soon as the sun came up.

"You have to see it right before the sun rises, it's magnificent."

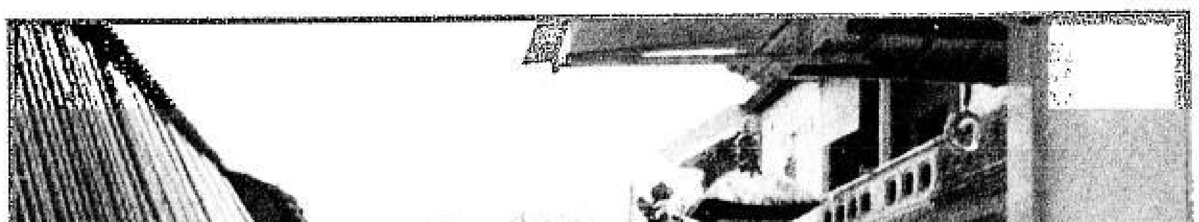
Having been nursed on National Geographic fodder, I held my breath and kept my cynicism inside my camera bag.

Four, five, six hours passed and I was amazed that the darkness did not intimidate our driver as I couldn't even make out a single street sign.

It was an endless black snake of asphalt, but eventually we came to a clearing and all traces of sleepiness left me in a single breath—which was just as quickly taken away by what I saw. It was as if the skies were smoldering, rich with the colors of rising flames and framed against thick white smoke.

For the next ten minutes all we could do was watch in silent awe as the sun slowly waded through the clouds as if coming out of a rich foamy bath. Once sunlight streamed in from all directions, the glamour of the surroundings disappeared and the road was revealed as nothing extraordinary, just a means to get from one end to the other and so we continued on our journey.

I look back on that trip as a turning point in my life. Soon after, my career shifted gears and I found a detour out of Mr. Dead End. Funny, all this from an unremarkable road with an unforgettable view.



The reminder

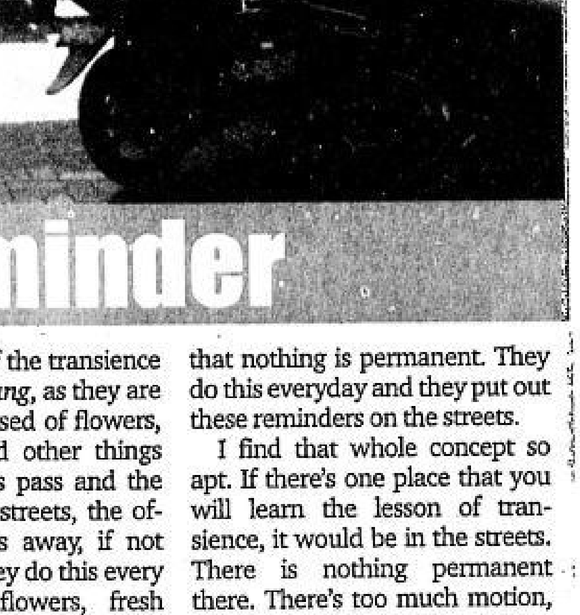
By Wanggo Gallaga
Photos by Wanggo Gallaga and Amanda Lapus

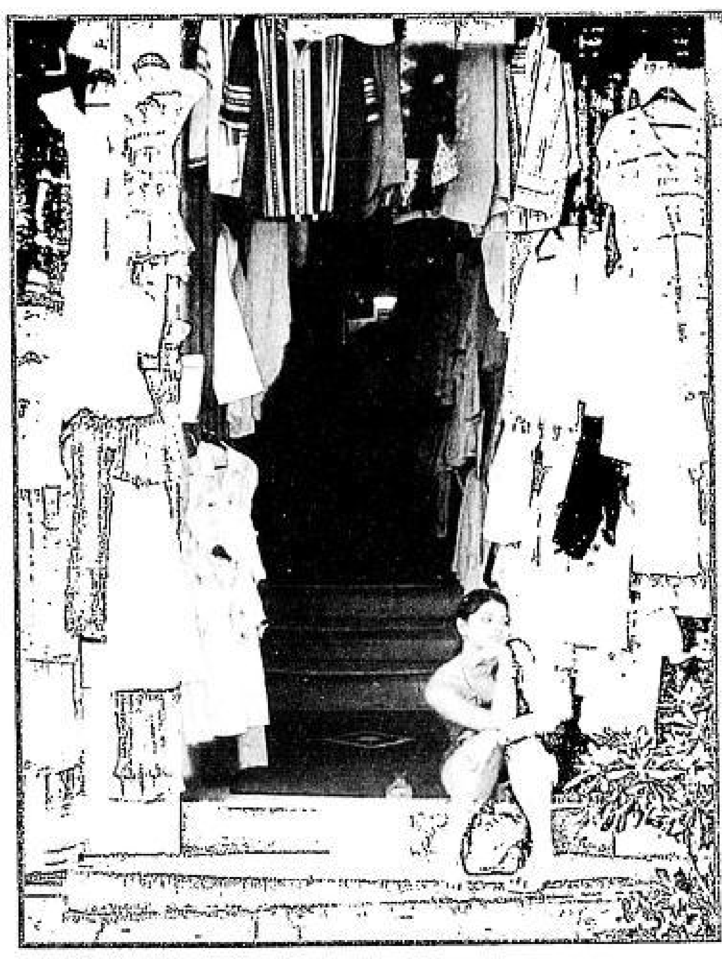
(Kuta, Bali, Indonesia)

"ART IS NOT TO BE taught in Academies. It is what one looks at, not what one listens to, that makes the artist. The real school should be the streets."—Oscar Wilde

The Balinese leave offerings on the street, at the entrance of their homes and shops, as a way to remind them of the transience of the world. *Canang*, as they are called, are composed of flowers, food, incense and other things that, as the hours pass and the tourists walk the streets, the offering just wastes away, if not trampled first. They do this every morning—fresh flowers, fresh food, a full stick of incense and by the end of the day, it's gone. Out in the sun, exposed to the heat, dust and wind and sometimes the occasional passing foot, the gift is never what it was earlier that day. It is to remind the Balinese that everything is transient, that nothing is permanent. They do this everyday and they put out these reminders on the streets.

I find that whole concept so apt. If there's one place that you will learn the lesson of transience, it would be in the streets. There is nothing permanent there. There's too much motion, too much activity. To work hard on something and make it so beautiful and then to just leave it to the mercy of the environment and other people is a true submission to a higher truth—that nothing in this world really ever really stays in one place for too long.





Wander g

By Juana R. Manahan

(Various streets, Euro

EVERY TIME I TRAVEL, I ENJC
around a city in its streets e
lost. Seeing the everyday goi
how you really get a full appreciat
Sometimes I wish I was diligent enou
the little street corners that are just pret

THIS is a photo of me taking a shopping br
Monasteraki in Athens. For some reason I
very at home in Greece, although it was my
time there. As a kid my bedtime stories wer
from Greek mythology, so being in the plac
all these stories were set was almost living
hood imagination.

The weather, good food and great shopp
added bonuses. The streets of Athens are
myths, legends and history played out, wh
haps why I felt it to be almost magical at ev
Though the city has changed a lot since and
times, the stones and structures that remai
streets have stories to tell.

Smooth talking on the str

Text and photos by James Gabrillo

(Greenhills, San Juan)

WHEN I WAS A KID, I was obsessed with shoes.

To cut myself some slack, my shoe thing wasn't as bad as some crazy maniac. But getting a new pair of sneakers was so stimulating to me, so exciting, that I could barely contain myself.

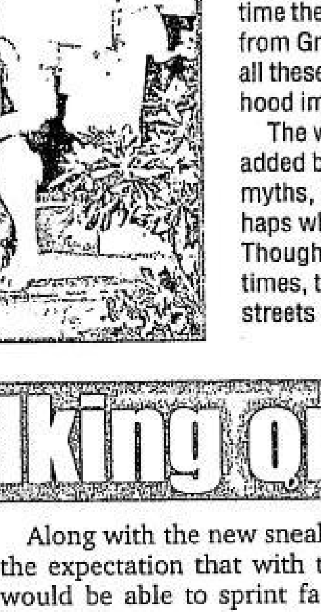
As soon as we got home from the mall, I'd go inside the bathroom, lock the door, and spend a load of time just examining the unscratched, smooth soles. I was like a connoisseur tingling like mad.

I guess I was so into it because of the tactile part: I loved the rubber, the feel of it. Why, I don't know, but I may have been learning how to use my sense of touch, the way we learn what we like to eat by tasting different kinds of food.

Along with the new sneakers came the expectation that with this pair I would be able to sprint faster, have better adventures, more fun.

But other people didn't perceive my sneakers the way I did.

I vividly remember one time when I was in Grade 5. I was quietly waiting for the school bus to arrive when a familiar face approached me and asked if I wanted to play football with him in the narrow street right outside school. I said yes, completely oblivi-



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nakita yung sneakers
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nuts.

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СТОЯТЬ БЛИЗКО К КРАЮ ПЛАТФОРМЫ
ОПАСНО!
SCHOOL BUS STOPS

STOP
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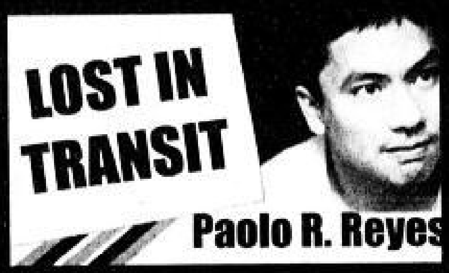
4 WAY

Sign language

Even the most obscure hazards deserve the dignity of a traffic sign



LOST IN TRANSIT

Paolo R. Reyes

MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, signs have a way of speaking for themselves. A clearly marked arrow here, a caricatured creature x-ed out there, and you're directional dilemmas are solved, even without the hassle-free wonders of a GPS system.

Of course, this is assuming you're cruising the highways of your native country (or at least in one that shares a familiar tongue). But consider being lost in the middle of Nowhere Land—in the cacophonous thoroughfares of Kazakhstan, in the mind-boggling roundabouts of Budapest, or in the dusty outskirts of Istanbul—and you'll soon realize that you're at the mercy of language barriers and culturally confusing signals.

The ubiquitous nature of transport signs on roadways, railways, and airports can lead to an overload of visual information, yet little research has been done to understand the design and use of such signs from a driver's perspective.

In 2004, the creative forces behind Benetton and the now-defunct Colors magazine produced an amusing book called "1000 Signs," a visual compendium of road signs collected by photographers in over 90 countries around the world.

But the photographs, while stunning, aren't just there to be ogled at—they're a means of seeing how the world works, revealing how tiny moments can hold larger cultural and social significance.

The text, though sparse and minimal, also tackles these moments of difference. You'll discover how much tar is used on a daily basis to build the superhighways of America, or why "STOP!" (or "ARRET!" in Quebec, and "KOF!" in Morocco) is the only octagonal sign.

The book also introduces a few professionals for whom signs (and the road) are a fundamental part of their lives. There is Dusit Somsak, who directs traffic (while dancing) in Bangkok; engineer Rafik Karaouzen who is constructing underground tunnels for the Cairo subway system; or Bangladeshi immigrant Abdul Samad, who wipes windshields in the cosmopolitan intersections of Rome.

Whether or not they're representative of the cultures they come from, signs are always interesting to look at, or even study in the context of product design.

"1000 Signs" may not be a profound, high-brow read, but the book will definitely make you think of your everyday, cautionary road signs in a totally new light. And who knows? One day, you might even decide to obey them.

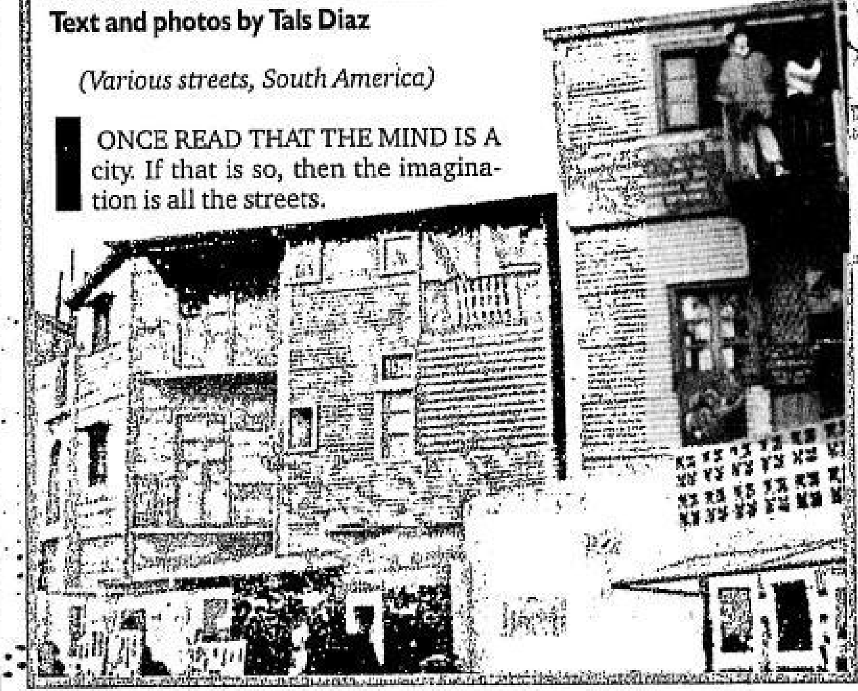
TAGAYTAY CITY
LUXURY VACATION CONDO
FOR RENT & FOR SALE
LEASED TO OWN
DAILY • WEEKLY • MONTHLY
NICE SUBD. CONDO
NICE INTERIOR DESIGN
FULLY FURNISHED
FAMILY CONDO STYLE
CALL OWNER : 09272171443

Alter native

Text and photos by Tals Diaz

(Various streets, South America)

I ONCE READ THAT THE MIND IS A city. If that is so, then the imagination is all the streets.



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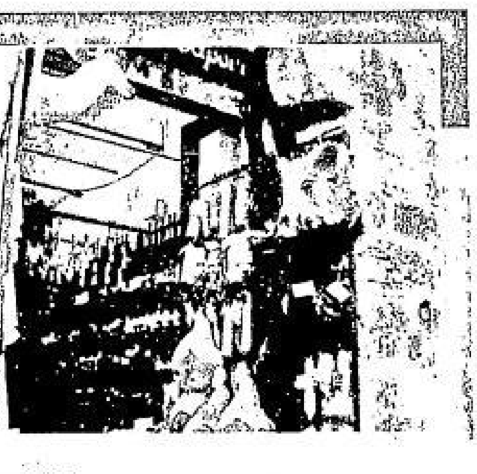

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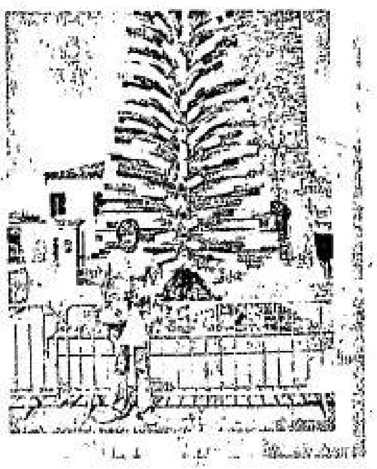
WHERE the wild boars are: A little store in San Geminiano near Florence where they served wild boar sausage ... and had displays of boar heads.

The town has one main street that leads into it, and is full of interesting little places.



THIS is my sister in front of a recycled plastic project on the island of Murano. It is interesting how many cities and towns devote public spaces to showcase art pieces.

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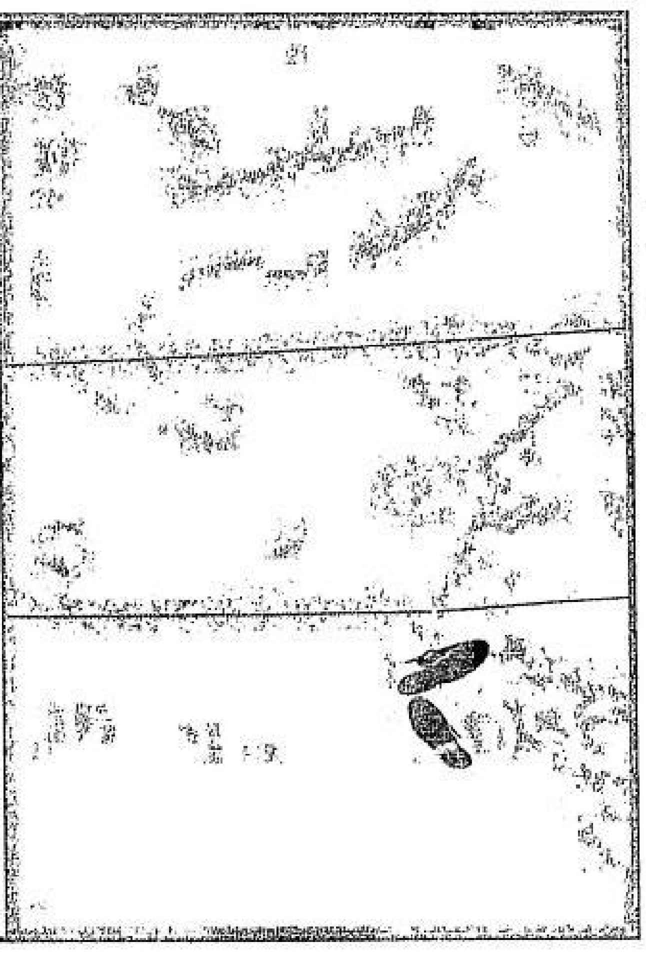

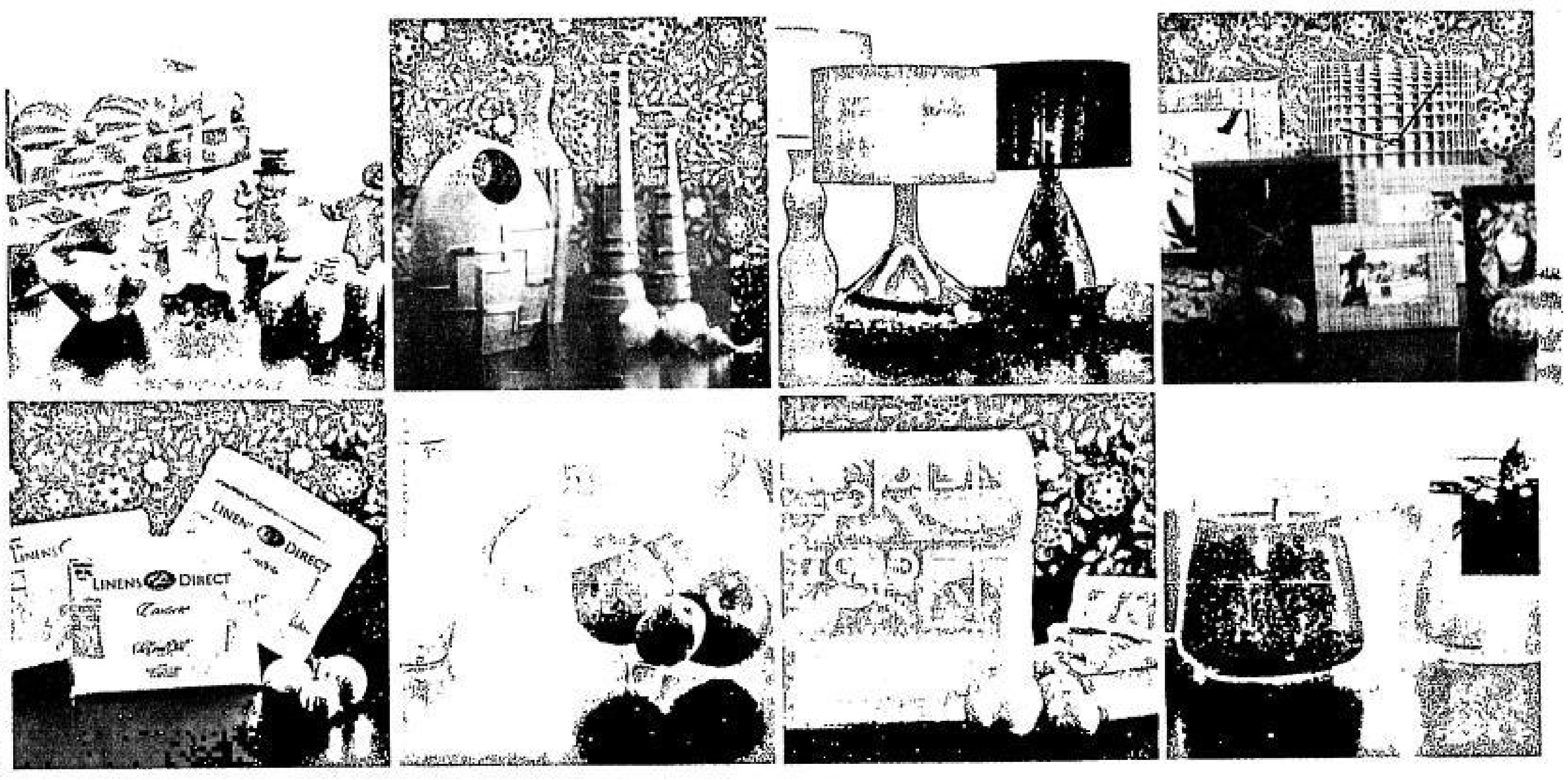

Give Joy th Christmas
sm megamall • sm city fairview • sm city bacoor • sm southmall • sm city pampanga
sm city marilao • sm city dasmarinas • sm city batangas • sm city cagayan de oro
our Home
great designs great prices

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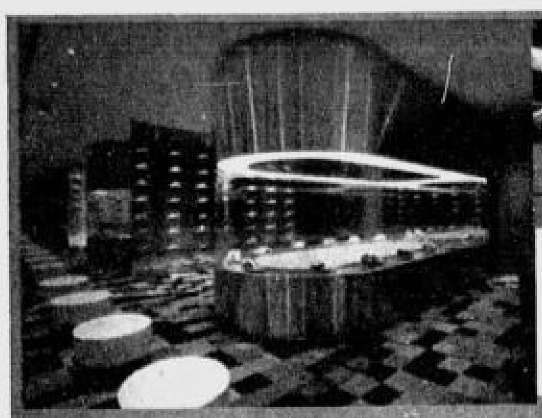
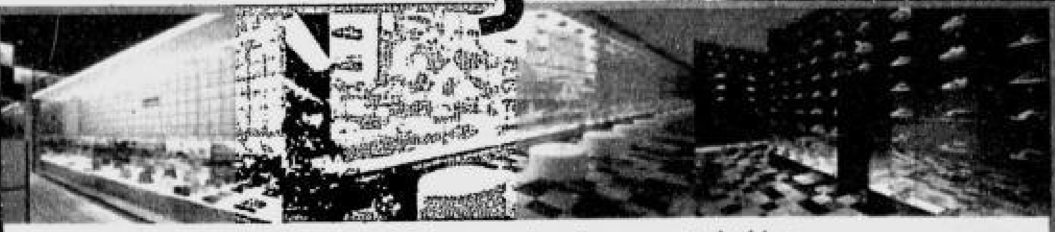
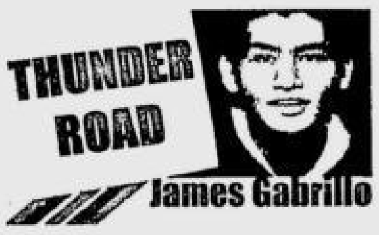




HOP TO WHERE IT'S HIP. The BAPE store only sells gourmet clothing.

The rise and fall of the hoody

Is the backstreet back or is it too cool for comfort?



THUNDER ROAD

James Gabrillo

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD HOLLIS Myers lives in the Appalachian Mountains near Asheville, North Carolina. On the last Spring Break, he asked his mom for a reward for being on the honor roll for three straight semesters—a thousand-mile journey to New York.

But unlike other tourists raring to see the usual spots, Hollis wanted only one thing—to shop at the Tokyo-based street wear store A Bathing Ape (BAPE) for sweatshirts and sneakers.

Hollis reminds me of loaded clients who travel across oceans to acquire Dior couture pieces in Paris, the only place where the garments can be bought. At such a young age, there is already an alarming attraction to exclusivity, an effort to shun from homogeneity.

Obviously, Hollis cannot be directly compared to these couture-obsessed consumers, but his worldview on clothes is similar to theirs.

Blame the bling

Stroll in the mall and every fourth person you see is wearing a hoody. They're armed not only with camouflage backpacks but also with baseball caps, skateboards, heavy chains, and patent-leather sneakers.

Mallrats with one-digit ages are out there looking like thugs. Instead of knives, they got PSPs on their pockets, assisting the development of the mall into a port of street-inspired tailoring.

Our entire way of life is tuned in on the ghetto act. Multi-disciplinary graphic design studio Team Manila has capitalized on silhouettes of street iconography, integrating Pinoy pictures and figures to a high-quality lifestyle made up of clothing and accessories, unconsciously elevating *kanto* (street) to couture. The studio's work is everywhere —proof of the power of high-style street goods in stirring the consumer.

'Tambay' trends

Companies like Nike have hopped on the bandwagon, commissioning artists like Electrolychee, Collision Theory, and Team Manila—three particular groups familiar to the modes of the street—to create advertising campaigns generating billboards splashed with the whole graffiti, hip-hop, and ghetto aesthetics.

Heck, even our very own scene's celebrities and bogus "stars" are coming up with their own collections, mostly infused with street mannerisms.

The planet of sound and vision has drifted towards the trend as well. Jim Libiran's film "Tribu" literally gave voice to the growing boys of the almost-gaudy gangland of Tondo. The movie was awarded Best Film in this year's Cinemalaya Film Festival.

Libiran went on to travel around the country, bringing with him the gangstas and their melodic raps, showing the middle class the true core of our country's culture. For a while, rap became social-reality cool, a sort of MoMA-fied Salbakuta.

Alleyways and byways

But should we take these latest developments as part of the growth of the style/movement/'hood? Is this boom a sign of maturity? Or is it plainly just selling out?

As the Yeah Yeah Yeahs' guitarist Nick Zinner puts it, "Hype is the new medium." But it is unfair to be cruel. This particular subculture is borne out of an ethereal process that can't be judged on the fly. The street, however, has always been the venue of statements of personal intent. It's the exact same thing with branding—you have got to be true to yourself or else.

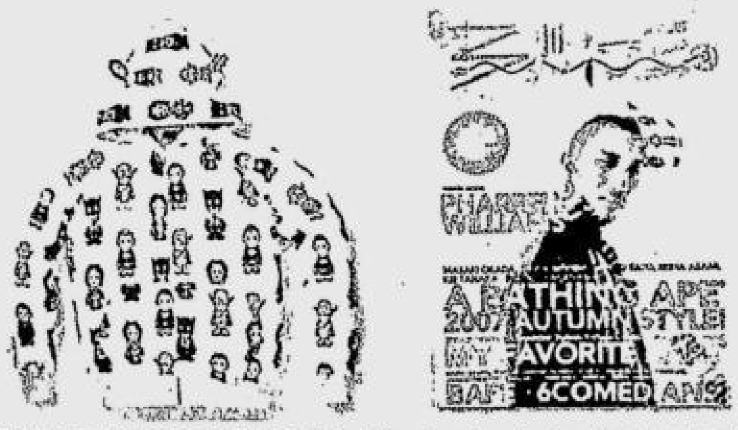
But who's to say what's legit on the street anyway?

At its core, the street culture has become a refuge for today's creative set. Speeding across income lines, it's been uniting people everywhere. Corporate graffiti, consumer ghetto goods, the reappearance of rap—these are inklings of a future built on pretty chaos.

More than anything else, citizens of the street culture should guard their integrity, placing their unique way of life over commercial opportunities. They should do so, before they reach a point where they'd have to suffer the consequences of a period where there is rejection of anything that's exclusive, where the majority's too cool to be cool.

A BATHING APE

PROUD TO BE A HOOD-LUM? Has the subculture reached its saturation point?



THE STREET IS STYLIZED. A Bathing Ape is painting the streets of Tokyo, NY and London with its signature 'stig.

FASHION'S SPLASH AND BANG. Pharrell Williams hops in the fadwagon.

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SAMPSON ROAD SUBIC FREEPORT ZONE
OLONGAPO CITY
BESIDE PANCAKE HOUSE

Super Perk

SPACE INVADERS

A Central Perk

By Pam Romualdez
Photos by Patrick Martirez

WHEN COMMERCIALIZED, fast-food-style coffee was introduced to the Philippines a few years ago, the Filipinos took to it well.

Unlike its role in the US as a hub for Americans to make quick stops for a cup of coffee, it has become just the opposite here. These coffee to-go places have turned into actual gimmick spots that sometimes have you standing around waiting to find a seat.

Inevitably, several popped up at every corner of every street of every city—just like a fad, it was quick to start and quick to deteriorate. Nowadays when you come into one of these places you are greeted by the generic mindless spiel of "Good evening Ma'am, Sir" by the doorman even if you are going in alone, regardless of your gender.

After having too much of the same coffee menu and overprized, often stale, pastries and Danishes, you crave for something different. You get tired of ordering the same thing over and over and you wish to yourself if only you had your own version of Central Perk. Somewhere you can have coffee all day and not feel like you're in McDonalds, seated in comfortable couches instead of lopsided steel chairs.

A place where you can order from a person, and not one who's a robot with a facade of a person, that actually answers your questions about what they serve because they really know the answers.

Tasteful

Bona Coffee, a quaint little café with a bohemian, antique setup just around the corner on Elizalde Street in Parañaque is definitely a class in its own. Put up by Luis and Candace Gonzalez, a couple not only well-traveled but are an obvious rare-breed of artistic entrepreneurs, the Bona Coffee was well-thought of and is exactly what a coffee shop is supposed to be.

Bona Coffee has a tasteful feel right when you enter the door with its funky, furry orange love seats to contrast the black leather couches. Your coffee and food will be served on an antique glass-covered carved table from India, an entire wall has a golden Buddha painted on it, an antique wall-to-ceiling mirror, and to top it off—an old fashioned oven where they actually bake the day's goodies!

Home brewed

All their coffee blends are from home grown coffee beans native to the Philippines.

This café is a great promoter of healthy food. Amazingly all their recipes and blends are non-fat and guilt-free. Don't worry, none of the food taste like cardboard, so you can still enjoy the moist, rich, chocolaty experience without having to suffer the calories. Bona Coffee is proud of this too! Comparative charts can be found all over the place—makes you think twice when you go visit another commercialized fast food-style coffee place.

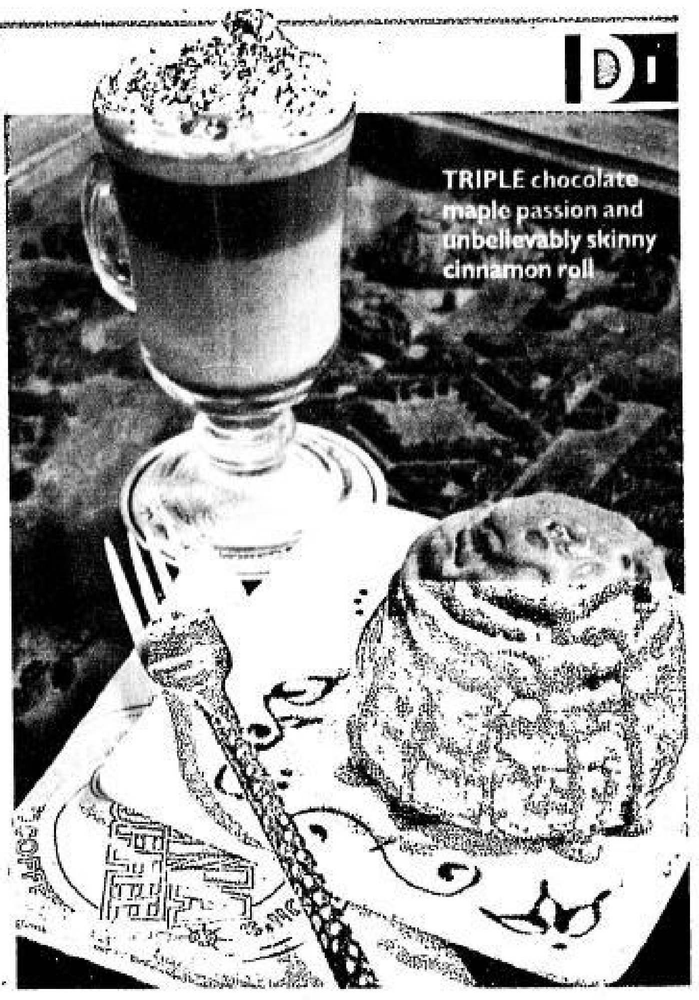
Satisfied buds

The food and drink roster is so unique that they don't have a best seller. Each type of coffee blend, muffin, sandwich, or smoothie satisfies all sorts of taste buds. How can one have a best seller when all that's served is as equally good as the other?

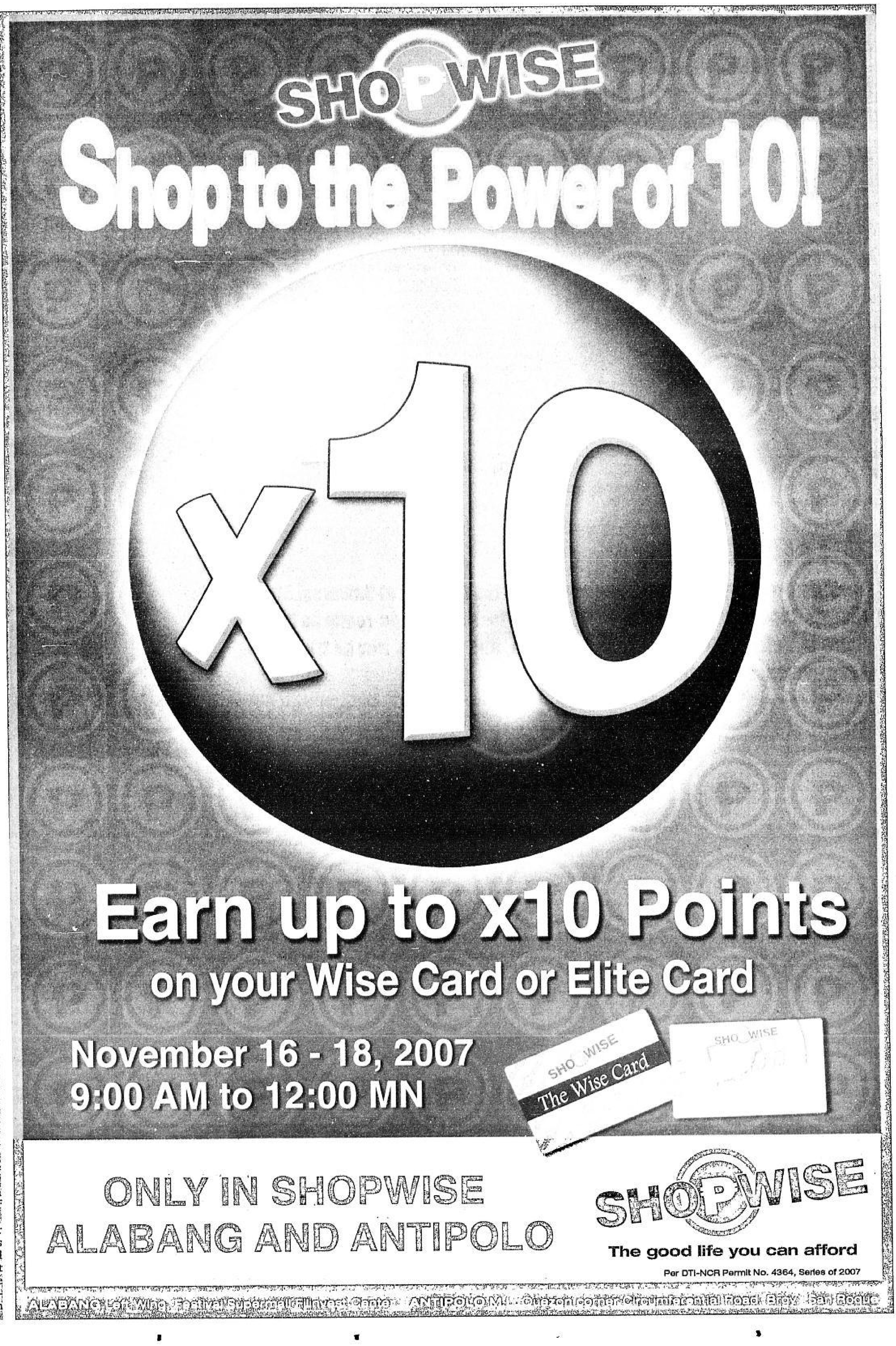
Unlike most Wi-Fi ready facilities, Bona Coffee has free Wi-Fi access all day everyday. The only condition is a purchase of any amount and they give you their password for the day. Perfect for people who would like to take a break from the office and need a different environment to work in. Not to mention the coffee shop student who likes to absorb law or medical books in cafes.

Ask Christian! He is a barista who knows his stuff. Ask him about anything Bona Coffee serves and he has a lot to answer. Bona Coffee's articulate and knowledgeable baristas are also something unique to this place. They not only give dignity to a job that requires tal-

A CENTRAL/ D2



TRIPLE chocolate maple passion and unbelievably skinny cinnamon roll



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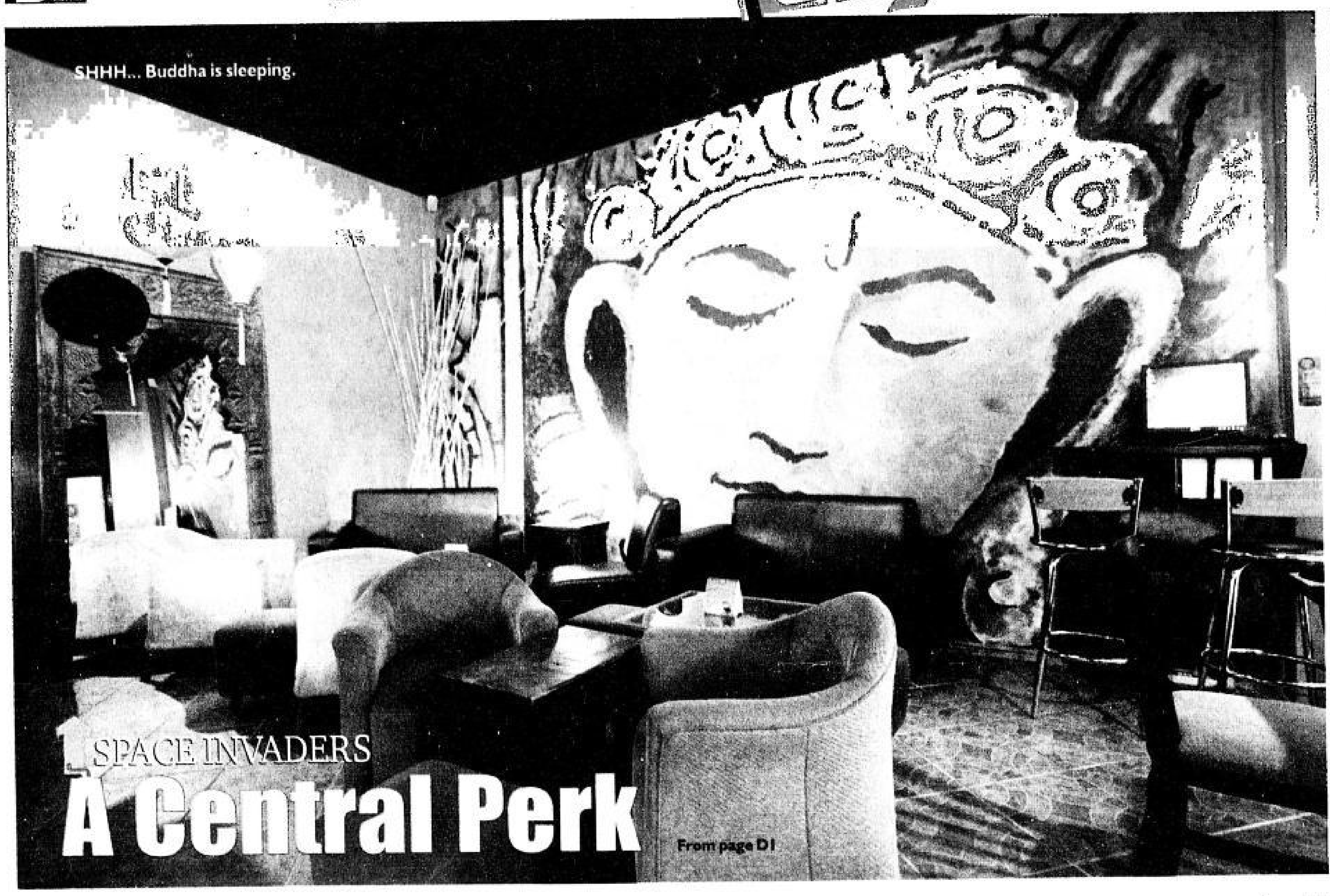
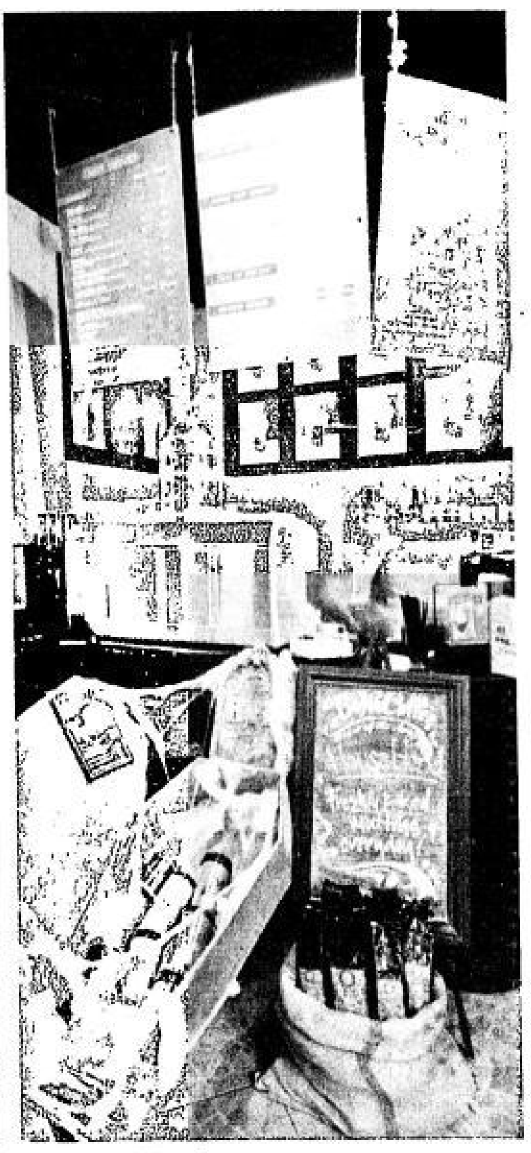


SHHH... Buddha is sleeping.



ORDER of the day

SPACE INVADERS

A Central Perk

From page D1

JAVA CHIP FRAPPE and Buddha belly sandwich

ent and hard work, they come in handy too when it's your first time here, going gaga trying to decide what to order.

Just so you know how hard these guys work, Bona Coffee Baristas come in early everyday to start baking the day's batch in preparation for their 7 a.m. opening.

Liquor unbanned

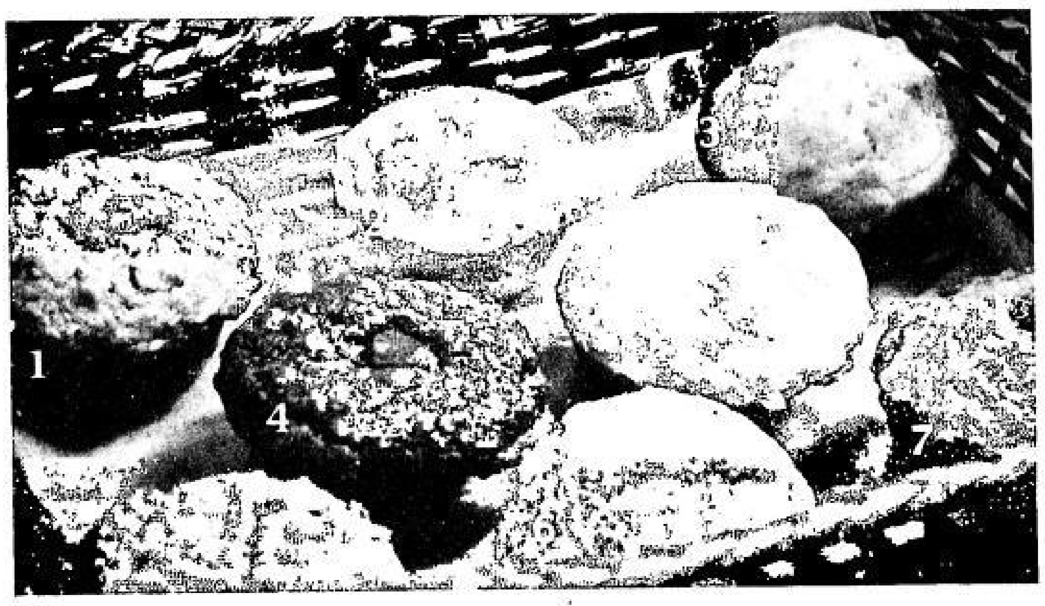
They have liquor! Probably the only place I know that serves affordable Irish coffee, this joint sells gourmet beer, too! Kiwi is what Christian recommends.

Bona Coffee Company gives back. Aside from a percentage of their proceeds being donated to Lifeline Foundation Support Team Inc., food that are still fresh by the end of the day are also donated.

So come on! This coffee shop is a great find. If you live too far up North or too down South from BF Homes, Parañaque, make the road trip because it's well worth it. You don't only get a break from the generic; anything you order is a guaranteed experience, it's only a matter of finding out what your taste buds respond well to. So what are you waiting for, start exploring.

Visit at www.bonacoffeecompany.com

After having too much of the same coffee menu and over-prized, often stale, pastries and Danishes, you crave for something different



MUFFINS mania

A Treasure

Taking a break between shooting scenes for the new film at Universal Studios, Nicolas Cage talks to Super about returning for a second go-round as Ben Gates in 'National Treasure: Book of Secrets,' and explains why he tries to keep audiences and critics guessing

By Robert Lee Zamora

HE HOLDS a torch...

WAS MAKING A SEQUEL TO the first National Treasure an easy sell for you?

I didn't have any expectations for the first film and I was somewhat surprised, happily surprised, that it caught on the way it did and, yeah, I was very pleased to have a chance to play such a positive character again. When I read the first script I thought it was a fresh concept—here's this man who's really interested in history and is a bit of a square, but also is an archeological detective of sorts, a treasure hunter and even a glorified criminal, but who isn't violent in any way. There are worse things to do than stimulate young people to look in their history books and I also thought that he was a character I could grow with.

How so?

I always try to find a way to play characters that are somehow synchronized with my own life and whatever I may or may not be going through so I can play them honestly. I figured this character of Benjamin Gates could grow just by virtue of the fact that there was some depth to him in the first place and that I have changed so much in the three years since I made the first movie.

In the first film, Ben Gates had to steal one of America's great historical treasures. Have you upped the ante on Book of Secrets?

Yeah, on the first one the bar was, how do we steal the Declaration of Independence?

NICK (un)caged

What they wanted to do on this one was to top that somehow. I'm not sure how much I should give away about this, but the concept in Book of Secrets is basically, how do you kidnap the President of the United States? [Laughs]. Which even thinking about that when they told me, I was like, okay, I give up, how am I possibly going to do that? I also think we've upped the ante with the historical concept of this one because the story revolves around the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and some missing pages from the diary of John Wilkes Booth [President Lincoln's assassin]. Those missing pages are a historical fact and there is still a lot of speculation about that fateful night that Lincoln was shot at the theater and who was involved and what they might have been looking for. So it makes for a wonderful and exciting and really interesting tale. There's a nice, complicated weave to the story.

How about the action in this film? The chases and getaways in the first National Treasure were a big part of the fun.

I think there's a wow factor to the spectacle this time around. The set pieces are gorgeous. The Black Hills in South Dakota, that's a really amazing visual experience, and we shot there, on Mount Rushmore. Washington photographs well each and every time I see it in a movie and this isn't an exception. There are great shots of us in front of the White House. We're also going to be in London shortly and Buckingham Palace plays into it, and then we're in Paris. So it's big.

This is the fifth time you have worked with Jerry Bruckheimer. What's the secret of your working relationship?

Jerry is someone I kind of came up with. I remember auditioning for him for a movie called "Thief of Hearts," which is such a long time ago. I didn't do the film, but I would see him around town and he was always a very nice man and easy to talk to.

As far as your work goes, does making a big action film differ from doing a small, art-house film?

A big difference on a film such as National Treasure is that you will sometimes get new pages of dialogue on the day you're actually filming them. The writers sort of respond to what's already been shot and how it's working out and I think it keeps things very fresh and spontaneous but at the same time it's always a bit of a high-wire act.

And you like that?

Yeah, there's a level of adrenaline to it that gives me an edge that I enjoy, though I don't know if I would feel very confident if it was not Jerry producing. Somehow you know with Jerry that the work will get done and it will be satisfying and entertain people.

TREASURE hunting is tiring.

How do you feel about having Helen Mirren play your mother?

I first saw her in a movie called "Excalibur" years ago and I loved her in that. And I could see where she could be my mother because we have a similar aquiline nose and long face. I remember with Jon Voight on the first film, I said, Look I don't care who you cast to play my father as long as he's the greatest actor in the world. When Jon's on, there is no one any better. And the same for my mother. I said, I don't care who you cast as long as she's the greatest actress in the world. And the same thing with Helen: when she's on, there is no one any better.

Between Helen Mirren, Jon Voight, Ed Harris and Harvey Keitel, you have a pretty talented ensemble on this film. Do you ever worry they will steal all your scenes?

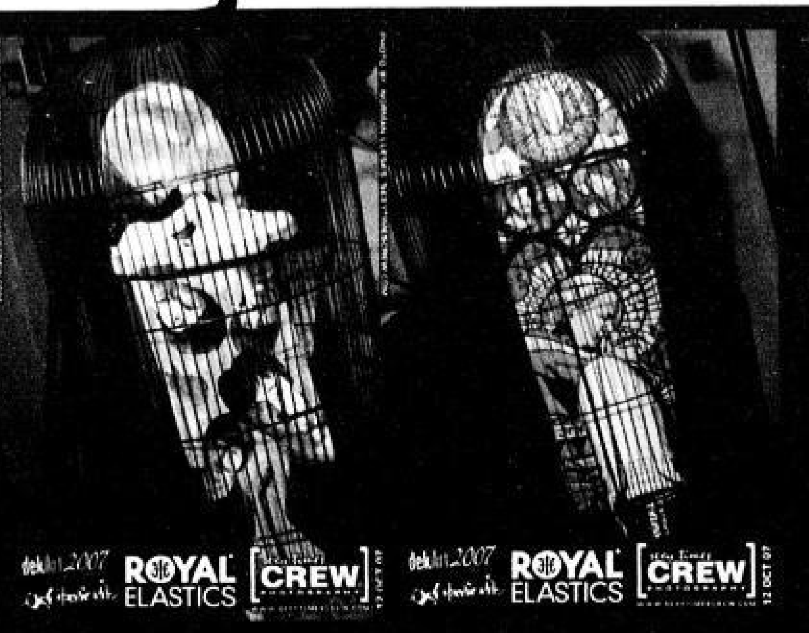
[Laughs] The more you encourage someone to be great in a movie the better that movie will be, however it happens. You know, it's one of the more obnoxious things about film actors when they get competitive and start to worry about being upstaged and who's going to look at them, who gets the last word. To me that's when acting becomes kind of adolescent and makes me not want to be an actor, so I try to do everything I can to not be that way.

You're obviously comfortable in many different film genres, from romances to action to serious drama. Do you think that has helped or hindered your career?

It's clear to me that I've successfully pissed everybody off! I've pissed off the fans of "Leaving Las Vegas" and I've pissed off the fans of "National Treasure," because I keep doing a little bit of everything and inevitably everybody gets upset at some point. But I'm not interested in a career based on one kind of movie. I'm the kind of person who needs to keep a sense of adventure and exploration going and it doesn't mean it's always going to work, but it is going to keep me interested, and that's my main goal. I'm not sure people always get it, but I'm genuinely interested in punk rock, rebellious, avant-garde films and I'm genuinely interested in big adventure movies. That's how I grew up. I like both. So, you know, I'm planning to keep pissing people off.

Sidewalk surfers

Diehard skaters welcome Royal Elastics to Manila, with a contest to bring world icons to the streets.



The Holy Grail of dekArt. *Royal Elastics' dekArt 2007's participants' interpretation of this year's theme Icons of the World is sure to make a believer out of anyone.*

dekArt 2007
ROYAL ELASTICS
[CREW]
12 OCT 07

Decks on Parade. *Intricately designed skate decks were on display at the first dekArt competition in the country presented by laceless sneakers royalty Royal Elastics.*

ROYAL ELASTICS
[CREW]

Painting up a Storm. *Top 6 graffiti writer in Australia Stormie Mills draws a Trinity to depict the Philippine's religious roots.*

ROYAL ELASTICS
[CREW]

Graffiti Frenzy. *Everyone in the audience was given the once in a lifetime chance to "vandalize" legally as they turn the stage to one huge canvass.*

Super Selects

Go back in time or dream on

EVERYTHING ANAlog at LomoManila's LomoLove Too Bazaar Day

The artist community jumps into a time machine and goes into rewind as LomoManila presents LomoLove Too!'s at Cubao X in Marikina Shoe Expo.

Fresh from launching the LomoLove Too! exhibit at the BlackSoup Projects Artspace, guests are once again treated to tasty lomographic treats by crazy lomographers.

On Nov. 17, lomographers and curious newbies can come to the Bili Na Mga Suki LomoManila Bazaar, Analog Afternoon and The Newbie Sessions starting 2 p.m.

Vinyl collectors can also bring their favorite vinyl records for an old-school playlist party.

Jam with the lomo masters at The Newbie Sessions, and share tips and tricks of shooting photos with orderly chaos and happy accidents.

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PEEPS

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TRI-ME. Juana Manahan

SPY-DER GIRL. Erin Campos

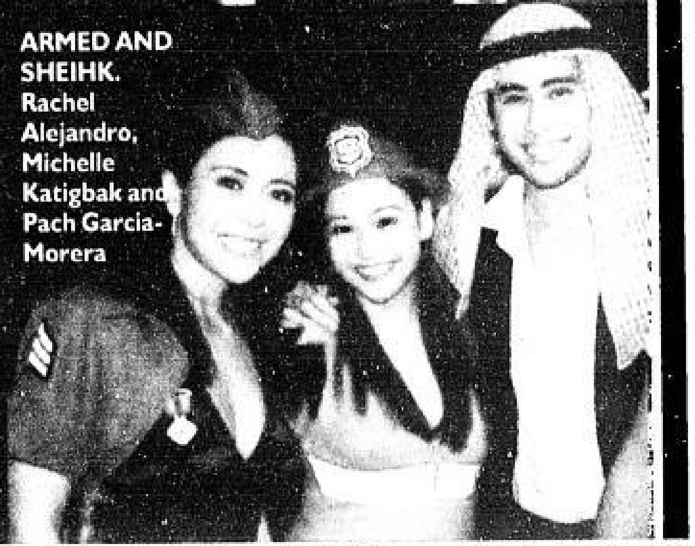
CUISINE COVEN. Kai Prieto, Rosanna Ocampo and Tanya Moreno

MASKOTS. Monique Albert and Alexi Alunan

FULLY HOOKED. Chris Yam and Jaime Daez

BOO-YEAH. Quad de la Paz and Enti Coscolluela

ALICE IN WASTELAND. Erica Paredes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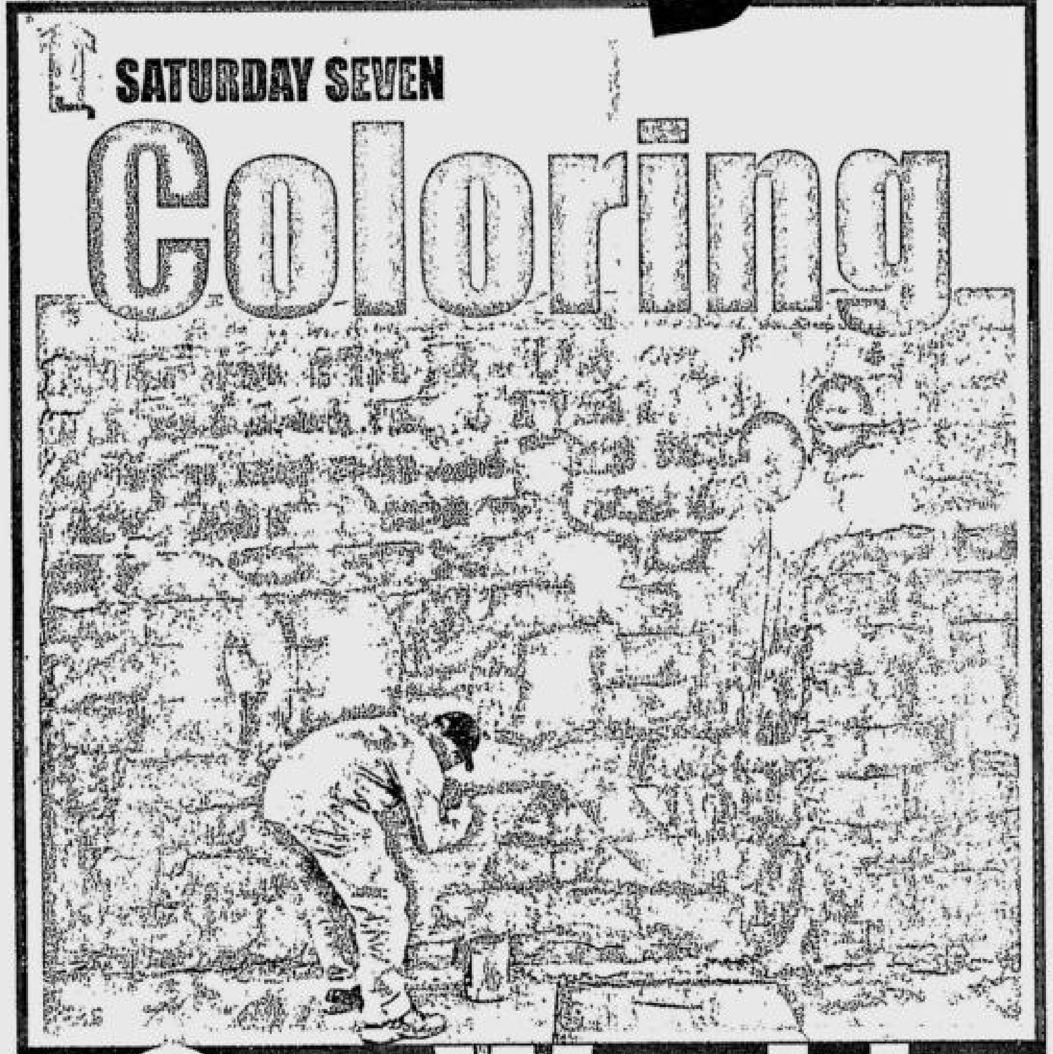
SATURDAY SEVEN

Coloring Our World



By Juana R. Manahan

FILIPINO CULTURE IS blessed to be a combination of the best and the brightest aspects of other cultures.

We always find ways to liven up our surroundings, no matter how small or large or public these spaces may be. It is therefore no surprise that even our streets are dotted with what aims to be "artistic" inspiration.

Add to that, our government has designated an entire body, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), to ensure our streets remain entertaining.

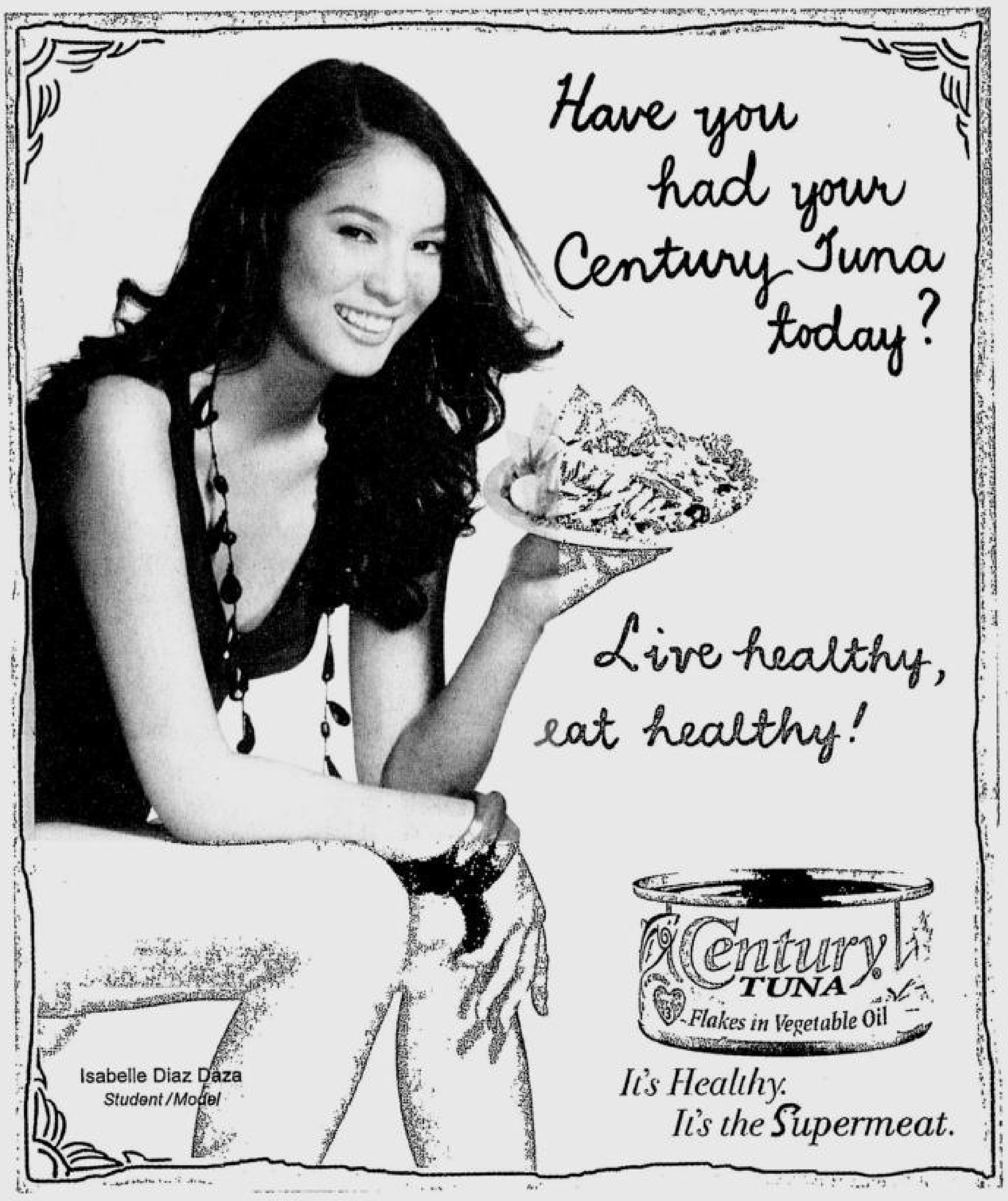
As someone who doesn't drive, I have time to observe the changes in our roads over the years.

The beautiful lights on Ayala Avenue at Christmastime or the numerous signs in the street are there for my amusement.

Going down Edsa, one will notice the most artistic building on the Guadalupe to Makati stretch. The MMDA building stands out in full color, covered in a wrought iron plant formation, a crude cousin to Jean Nouvel's L'Instituit du Monde Arabe in Paris.

I happen to think the plant creeping up the side of the building is the ornamental weed cadena de amor, which is the same plant that is used to cover the unsightly chicken wire along the underpasses and tracks of the MRT.

The MMDA has made a significant contribution to the art world by adding two new colors previously unseen in our known spectrum. MMDA pink and blue are shades of bright pink and blue that without a doubt were created solely for the use of the MMDA to draw attention and to stop traffic.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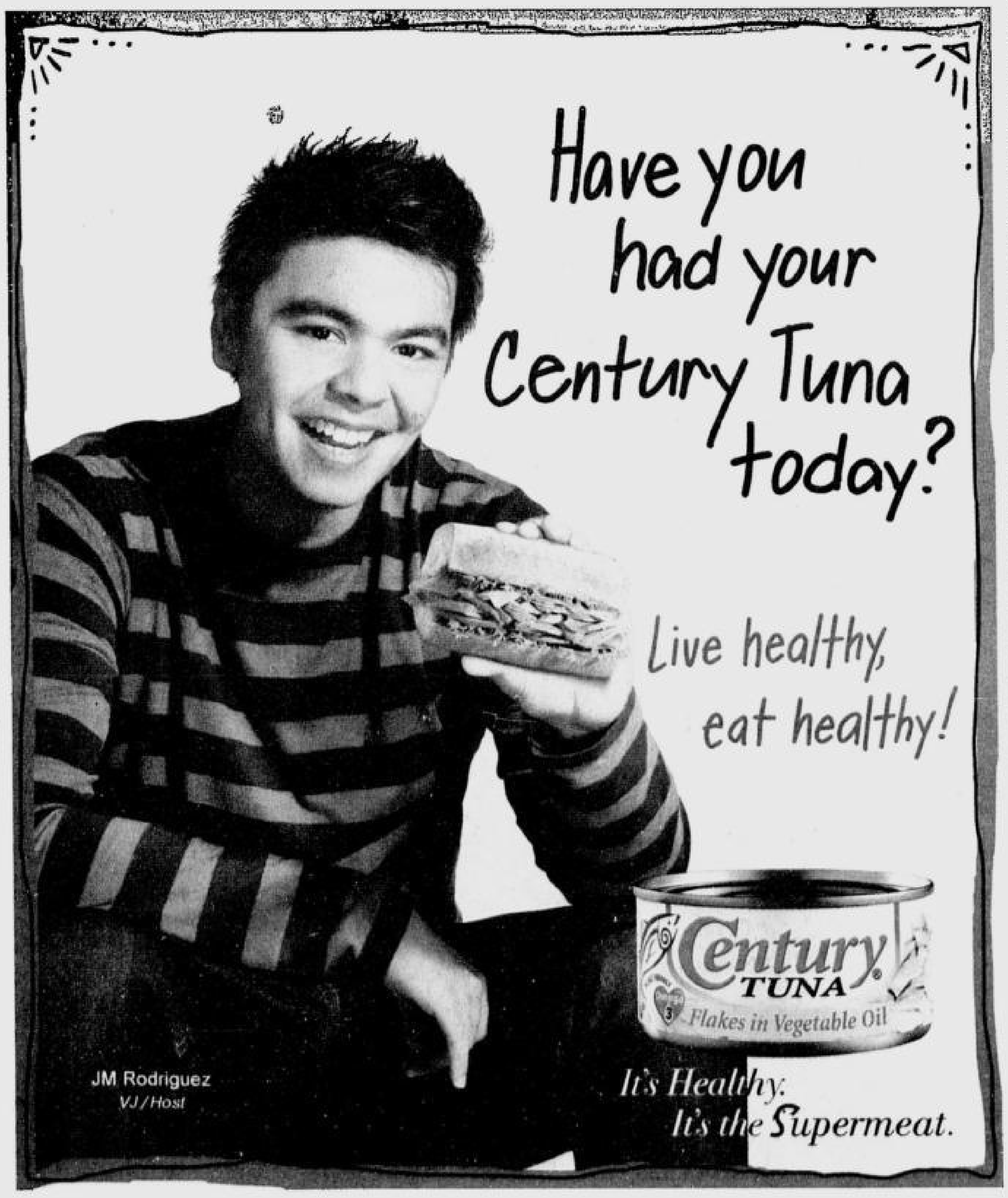
Isabelle Diaz Daza
Student/Model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Flakes in Vegetable Oil
It's Healthy. It's the Supermeat.
JM Rodriguez
VJ/Host

The headquarters are of course painted in their signature colors, as well as tow trucks, watch posts and urinals of the same two colors.

The designated branch of the government to beautify the city has earnestly tried to do so, It started a major campaign a few years ago with geometric patterns that appeared on the city's clean, white and apparently very boring walls.

The patterns appeared in small clusters of pinks, blues and greens in rather amusing, almost psychedelic prints. For some reason the patterns stayed small in relation to the rest of the walls.

Form to Forget Function

Art on the streets and painting on public motorways is common in many large cities. Los Angeles and Sydney have some of the most innovative art.

In a community in Sydney, a mural made entirely using spray paint by graffiti artists depict how different ethnic races should get along in a community. A heart-warming feeling from an otherwise vandalistic medium.

The subjects on our streets, however, tend to be a little more family oriented and pastoral.

Consider the newest additions to the walls along Edsa in Makati: plaster casts of a family walking toward the area where to board public transportation looks quite friendly ... the child clutching a balloon.

Never mind that buses don't actually stop in the designated areas, at least we know where they are supposed to.

There are also reminders of our Filipino heritage, as depicted by the plaster cast bamboo and banana leaves, neatly framed. Upon close inspection, these casts are actually quite delicately made, the plants' veins and sinews visible and detailed.

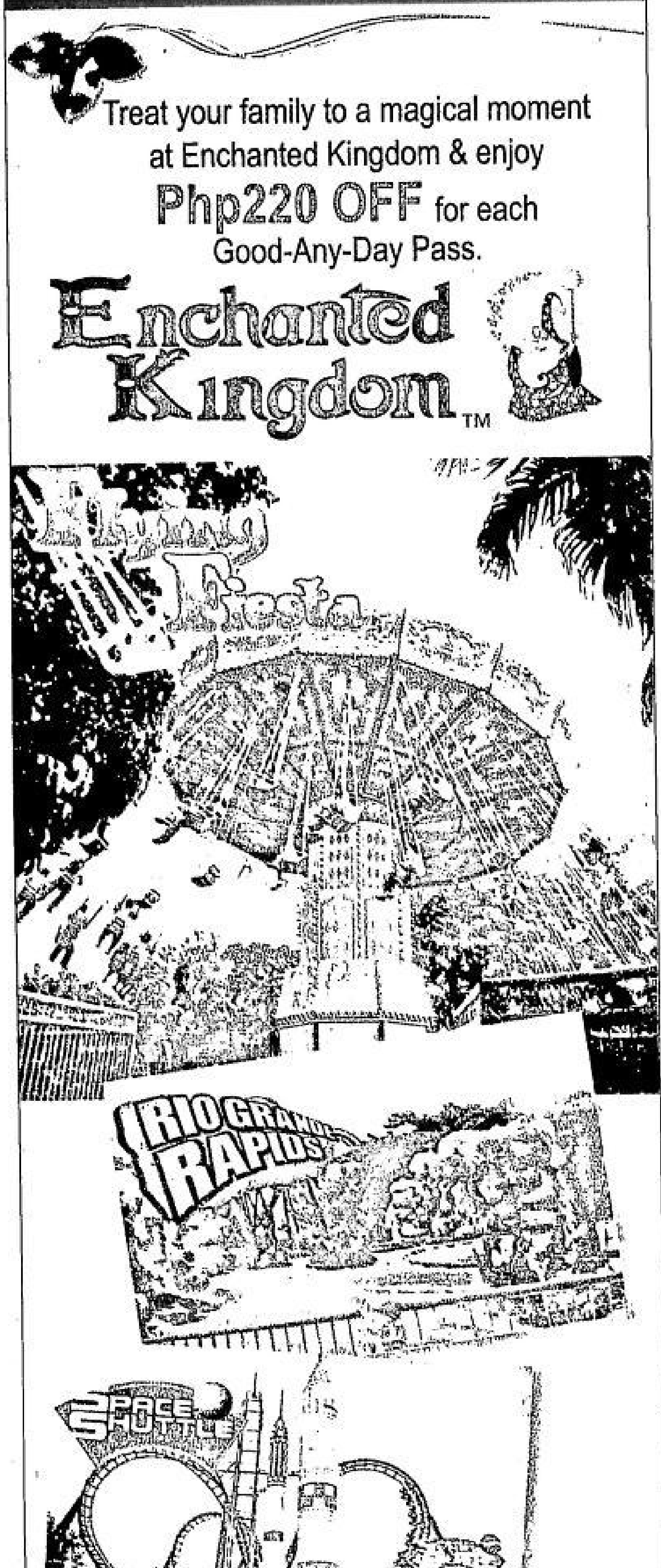
Like all great art, these pieces are signed larger than life with the label MMDA METRO GWAPO to remind us all of who is responsible for dreaming up the newest installations on the streets.

With all the time that they put into painting concrete and building chicken wire barriers, they have neglected to dedicate time to more lasting efforts such as cleaning up the streets, unblocking drainage to avoid flooding, and arresting reckless bus drivers.

In an already overcrowded city, less is more. The art of the MMDA has a long way to go in its stylistic development. From loud pink men's urinals, they have switched to Elgin marble wannabe colorless casts. Maybe they heard that mixed media was all the rage.

Quite a shame really, as the art painted on the street by authorities was probably made to dissuade people from free form spray painting.

With all the resources made available to the MMDA, they should perhaps come up with a unified style. Great art after all is something that epitomizes natural beauty. Minimalism for the streets is the way to go.



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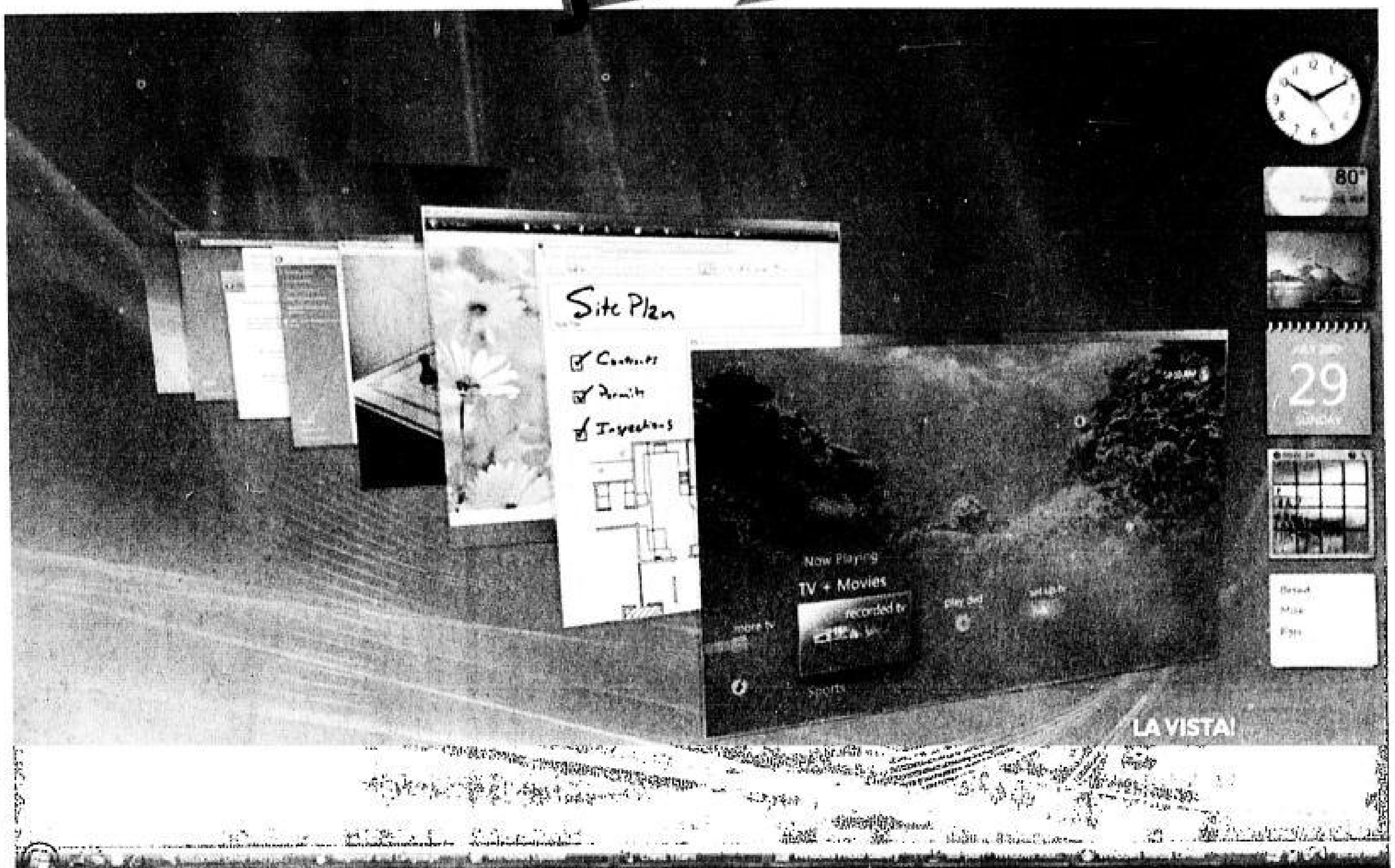


Livin' La Vida Vista

By Tals Diaz

WITHIN THE flickering, quick-as-an-eyeblink landscape of a city famous for its perennial case of insomnia exists a hipper-than-thou space known for hyperfast hook ups and experienced users. An alleyway painted with violet light leads to the inner sanctum. Inside, waiters who could pass off as Calvin Klein models serve free flowing bubbly to last the night, while a DJ dressed like James Bond coolly spins tracks from his vintage vinyl collection.

A new club on the Manhattan grid? Hardly. It's the Windows Consumer Experience Space at the Peter White Studios in New York. Or the Jetsons' living room, if they ever moved to Chelsea. Set against the panoramic view of a moonlit city embraced by the Hudson River, rows of the latest sleek silver laptops are opened up invitingly for all to double click their hearts away to navigate Windows Vista. At the center of it all is the manifestation of the "seamless digital experience," one swanky looking room set up with a large flat screen showing the Windows Navigation environment, an X Box, video games, and a keyboard atop a glass table. Oh, and a fluffy white couch.

E-volution

See, something big—massive—happened to life in the past decade thanks to the World Wide Web. Gone are the days of fear and downloading, when computers and anything tech-related were reserved solely for hardcore geeks. The next gen is digitally savvy; they know all about the seamless integration of the digital experience into one's lifestyle. And that is unfailingly hip. Even everyday language has evolved: one can be googling and superpoking on a Saturday night and neither activity is of the virus-contracting kind. ROTFL!

A man walks up and in between sips of Moët, he asks if he could show off his favorite new toy. He is Stephen Birkhold, Microsoft group marketing manager. He whips out his mobile phone and reveals the Windows Live Search application, which showed the familiar NYC gridlines. "This will help you find any place in New York," he says. The name of a club in an undisclosed location is given out. Stephen types it out and voila, there appears not just directions, but the actual location on the map, which you could navigate even further. Awesome.

Shortcut Above The Rest

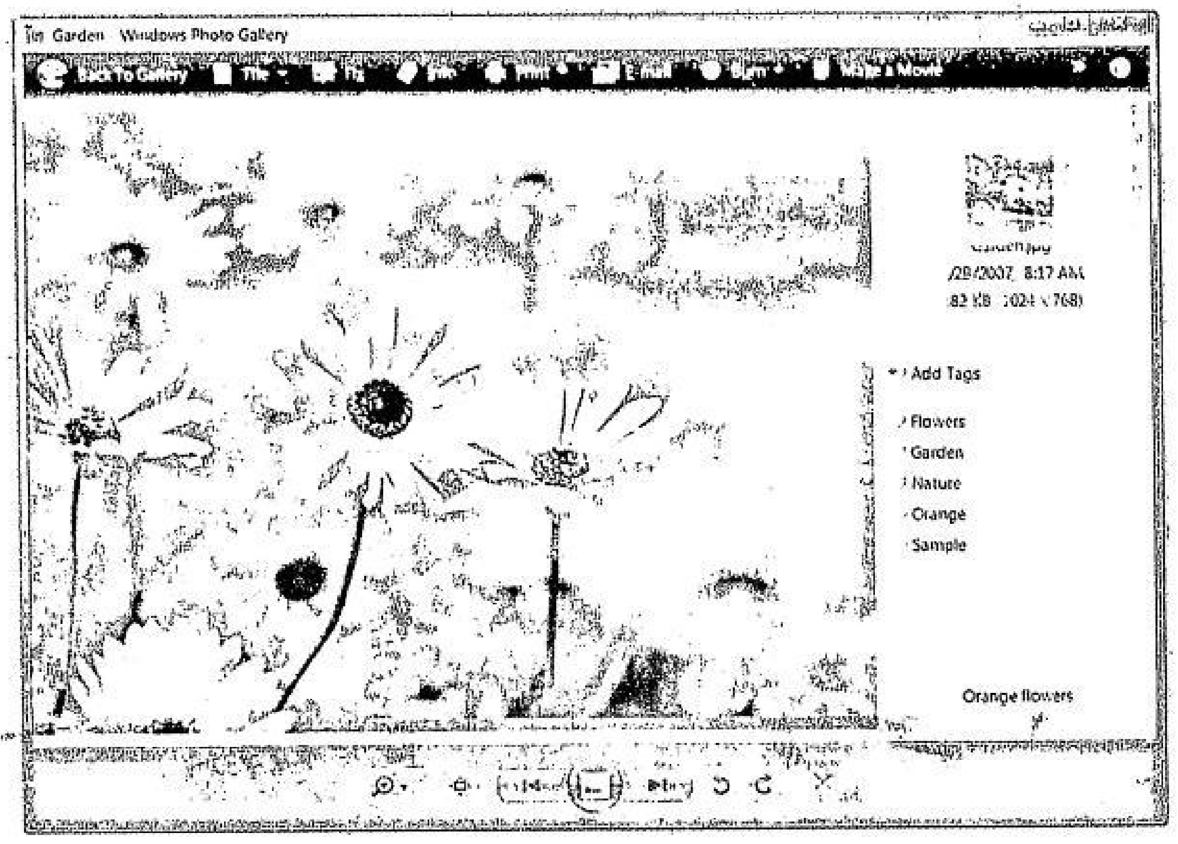
A few meters away, there is a display of the latest gadgets that would make any technosexual salivate. Top of the line digital cameras, video recorders, routers, and wireless printers, all devices that have passed Certified for Windows Vista testing, needing no drivers to connect to your PC. A personal favorite is the Samsung SPF-72V digital photo frame that flashes and shuffles pictures directly from your Flickr photo album. "The laptop has become the new shoebox. You have all these photos in store and no one gets to see them," says Stephen.

On that cue, he opens Windows Live Photo Gallery on the big screen set up at the swanky living room area. The Photo Gallery not only organizes photos, it allows you to zoom in, crop, and adjust colors and upload to your personal Windows Live Space account, which acts as holding space for images. You can even embed these enhanced photographs with Photo Email. That means no more hassle of downloading photos, as they appear on the email body. Hmm ... you do get a lot more things done with a shortcut.

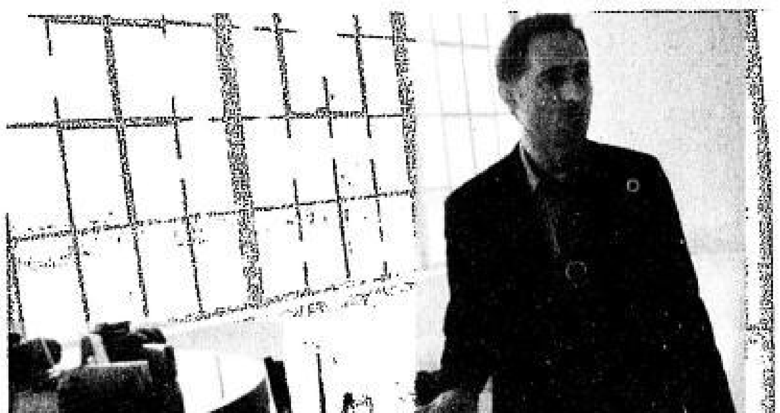
And those shortcuts are what set the Vista operating system apart. "It's like cutting the middleman between the PC and the Net," adds Stephen. Even when you're online, you're still navigating a Windows environment. "That makes for a greater user experience."

Greater user experience. Years ago that would've sounded really funny, but today, it makes perfect sense. And that's really what it's about, isn't it? Digital systems enhancing life, and not limiting it. Not being prisoners of our own device. La Dolce Vista. The password is out.

Special thanks to ZS Bernardo of Perceptions, Ali Koper of Waggener Edstrom and Igan d'Bayan.



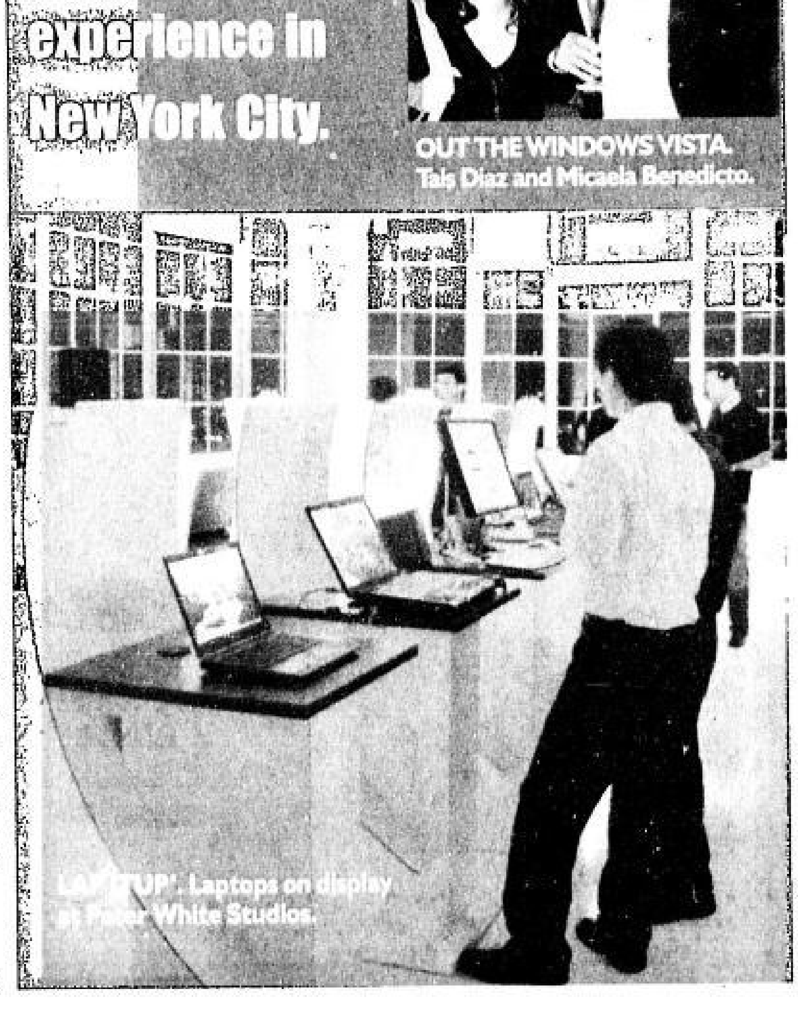
WINDOWS view



WELL CONNECTED. Windows Senior Product Manager Dave Block reveals the saeamless experience

Super gets the first hand Windows Vista experience in New York City.

OUT THE WINDOWS VISTA. Tals Diaz and Micaela Benedicto.



LAPTUP'. Laptops on display at Peter White Studios.

24/7

By Janine Cuenca-Dario
and Stef Juan

SUPER RADAR

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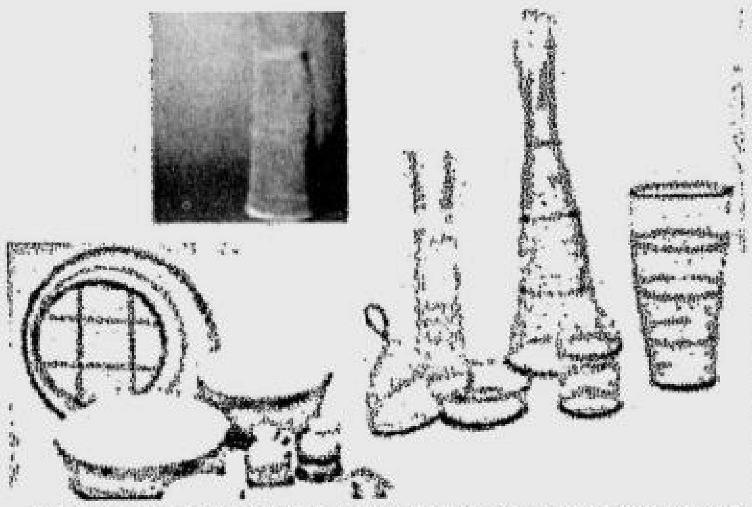
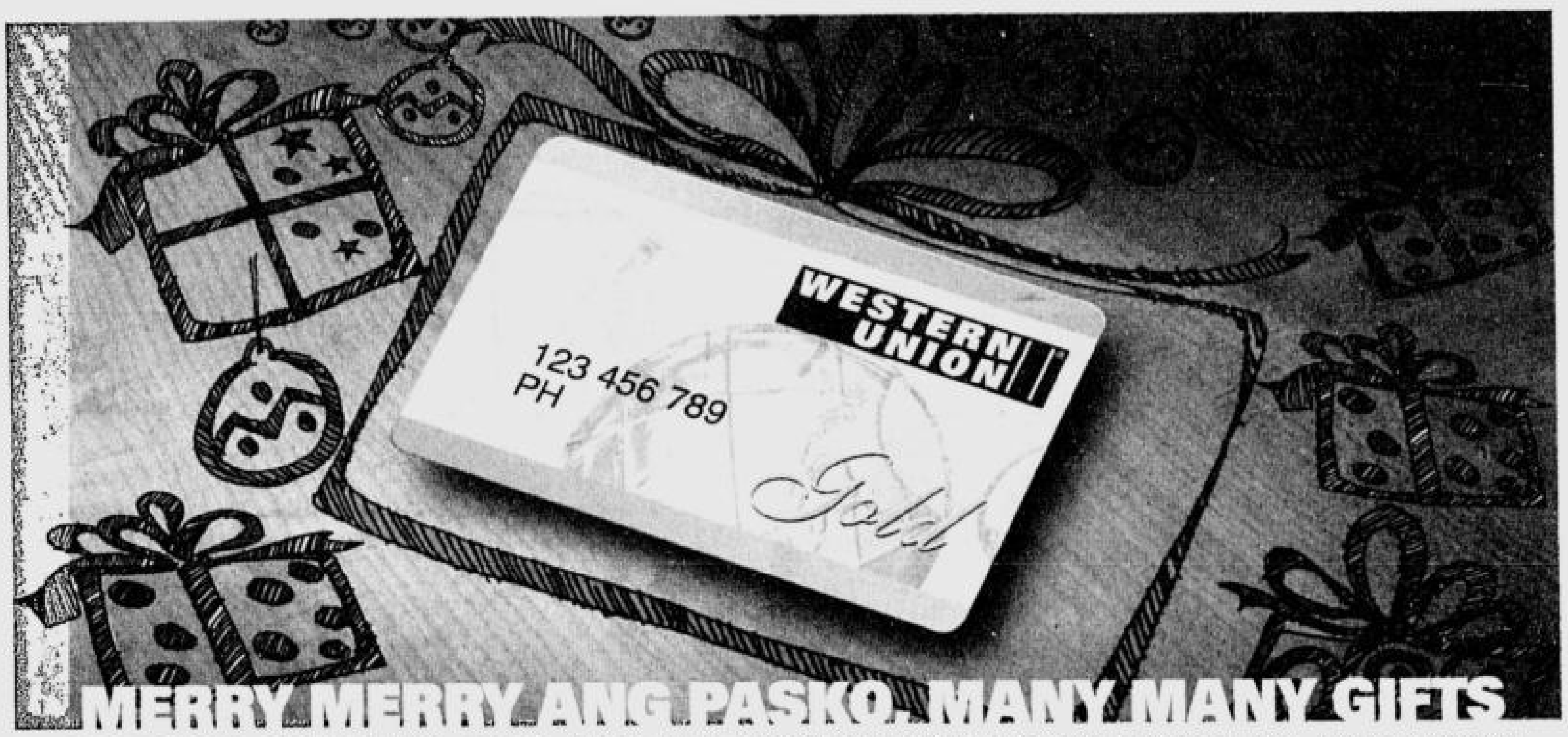


TASTE the wonderful flavors of Italian cuisine at **Tosca**, the new fine dining restaurant of **Dusit Hotel Nikko** [EDSA corner Pasay Road, Ayala Center, Makati]. Over lunch with internationally acclaimed Filipino-American novelist Jessica Hagedorn (who is in town for the staging of her play Dogeaters at the Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati from Nov. 16 to Dec. 2), 24/7 discovered this treasure trove that took us to the old world with veal and spinach tortelli with porcini mushroom sauce, pan roasted red snapper fillet with saffron sauce, grilled lamb chops with red wine reduction, and hot chocolate cake with pistachio ice cream, all painstakingly prepared by Italian Chef Alessio Loddo. We would recommend the wine from their award-winning list and executive lunch priced at P650 (inclusive of an antipasto buffet and your choice of main course and dessert). With great food, attentive service and relaxed ambiance, in a chic and elegant setting, this is no doubt our restaurant of the moment. Call 867-3333 extension 3919 and 3310.

LOOK and gaze with awe at the photographs and photographic essays of the country's foremost photojournalists Joe Gabor, Romy Vitug, Mario Co, Silverio Enriquez and Ed Santiago in **"5 Photographers (Part 3): A Tribute to 5 Pioneering Masters of Photojournalism"** at the Silver Lens Gallery[2320 Pasong Tamo Ext., Yupangco Bldg. 2, Makati] from Nov. 22 to Dec. 20. The chosen works in this exhibit, curated by Jose Enrique Soriano, shall be the best ones produced during the 70s, a critical time in Philippine Photojournalism, when photography was in its nascent state as a form of art. Call 816-0044.

SUPER/ E4



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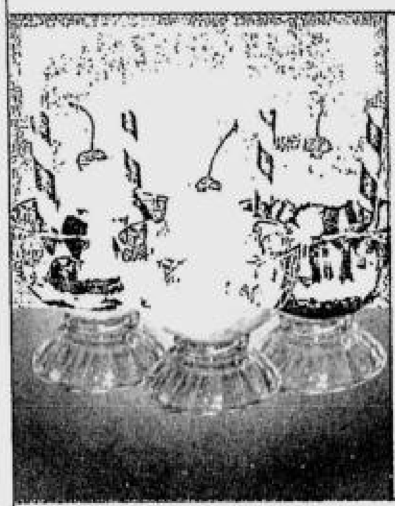

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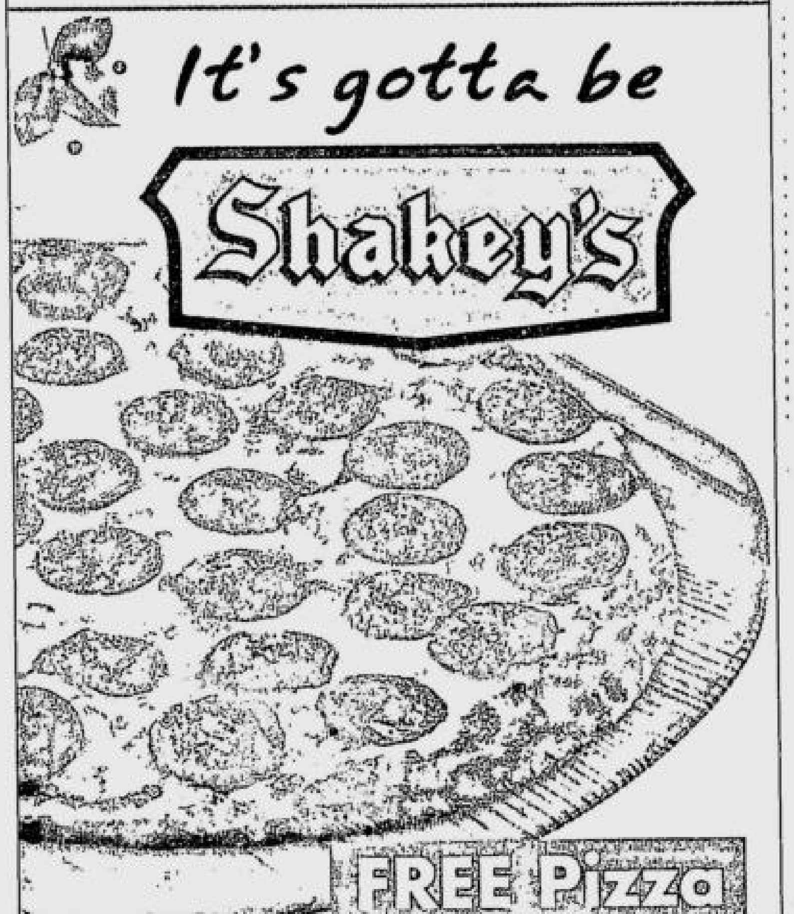

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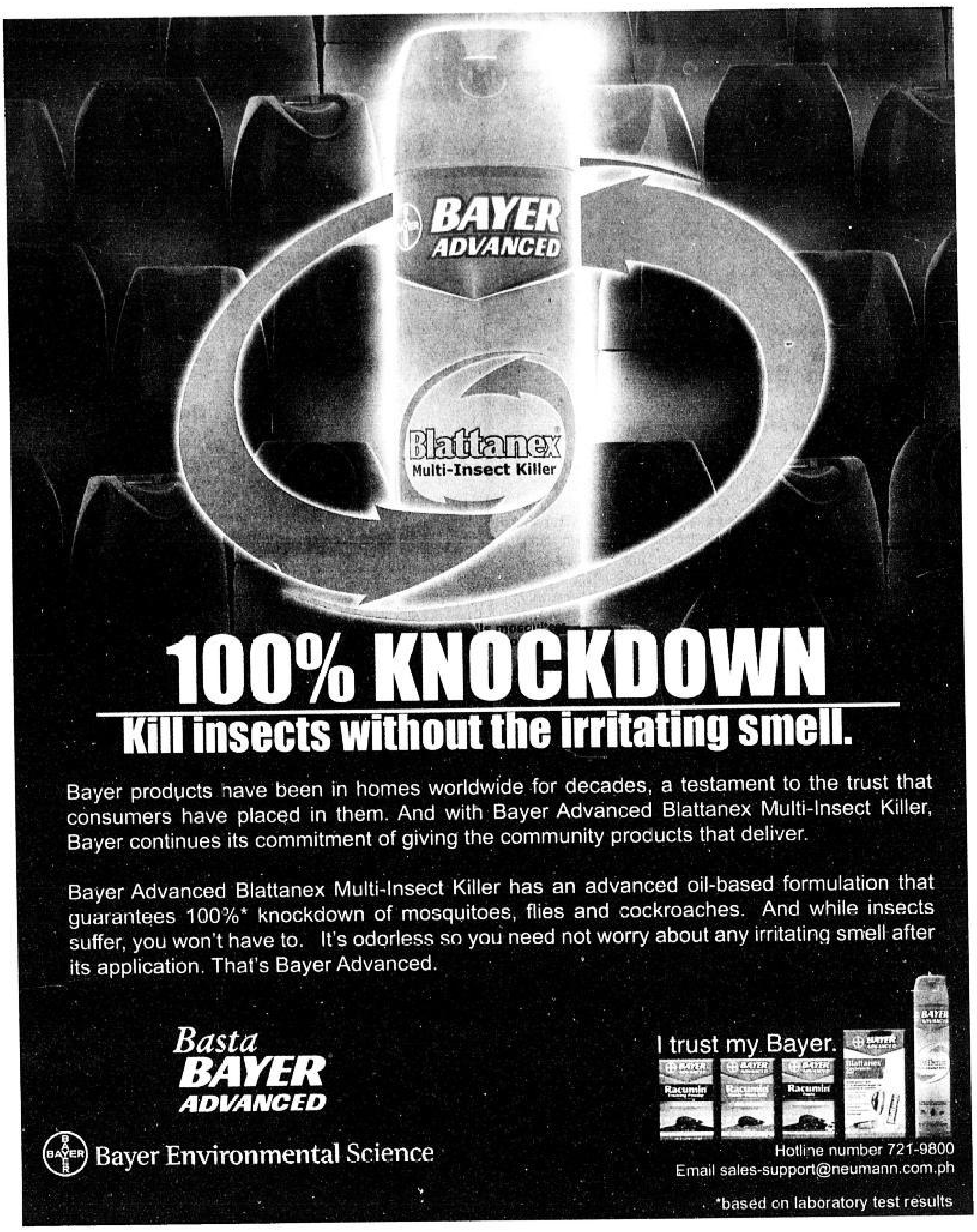

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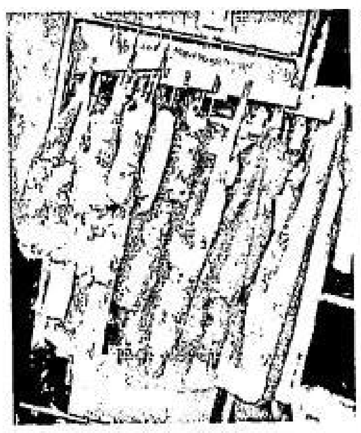
SUPER RADAR

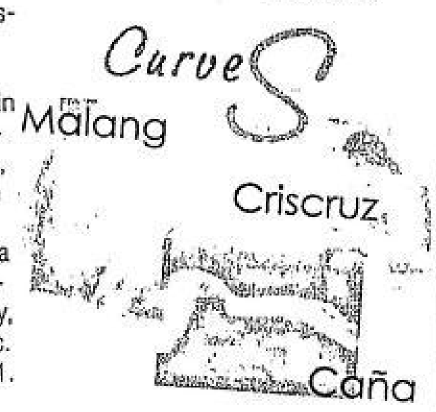
From page E3

SEE and be amazed at the treasure trove of unique gift items at the **Rockwell Urban Bazaar** at the Power Plant Mall in Makati from Nov. 16-18. Featuring home decor, clothing, accessories, shoes, knick-knacks and trinkets from Manila's artistic entrepreneurs such as Leaf, Peridou, Bags In The City, Cole Vintage, Quirk Shoes, Trunk Show and Hat Momma-just to name a few. It's amazing to see how the Rockwell Tent [Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati] can house them all under one roof! Call 793-0088, 403-088.



Check out the flavor of interesting finds from Southeast Asia when the Philippines play host to this year's Asean Arts and Crafts Expo from Nov. 22 to 25. Featuring exhibition booths representing the 10 Asean member countries, a business forum, demonstrations, workshops and cultural shows, the expo is held at the SMX Convention and Exhibition Center next to the SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Call 525-9318 to 9327 or log on to www.ahpada-expo.com.

FEEL the artistic passion and appreciation of the masters Malang, Criscruz, and Caña as they celebrate the beauty of the human body in "**Curves.**" Presented by Alliance Francaise de Manille, this exhibition opens at the Alliance Française Total Gallery [209 Nicanor Garcia (formerly Reposo St.), Bel-Air Village, Makati, Monday, Nov. 19, and runs until Dec. 3. Call 895-7585/895-7441.


Alliance Française de Manille presents
Curves
Malang
Criscruz
Caña

HEAR The **Silent Soprano** make noise about the plight and rise to stardom of a Filipina domestic helper in Hong Kong with a golden voice. Dulaang UP stages this musical at the Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F, Palma Hall, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City from Nov. 21 to Dec. 9. Call 926-1349/981-8500 loc. 2449 or log on to www.upd.edu.ph/~dup.

Schedules are subject to change without prior notice. For more information on events, log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at your favorite malls, bars and restaurants. You may also text 24/7 gigs to 2851 for Globe and Sun and 2951 for Smart.

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MARSDEN. Continues to establish himself as one of Tinseltown's most promising new leading men.

JOHNSON AND PETTIS. Play father and daughter in the family comedy, "The Game Plan."

New stars light up the silver screen

By Nestor U. Torre

THE BRIGHTEST NEW find on the big screen this month is 7-year-old Madison Pettis, who shares lead status with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson in the current family comedy, "The Game Plan."

Little Madison topped a nationwide search due to her unique combination of sweetness and spunk. Her character had to have both qualities to melt Johnson's cold, cold heart in the movie, which cheekily combines sports and family issues.

"Madison's character, Peyton, isn't just a Shirley Temple ragamuffin," director Andy Fickman observes. "After all, to get to see the father (Johnson) she's never known, she pulls off a major con job. At the same time, she's going through a lot of hurt."

Comic sensibility

For his part, producer Gordon Gray exults: "Madison has a rare comic sensibility for one so young. She's so smart that we continually laughed at what came out of her mouth!"

Pettis is a complete newcomer to movie-making, but she does so well in "The Game Plan" that everyone she worked with agreed that the only way for her to go is up, up—and away!

Ditto for heretofore unknown teen actors, Michael Cera and Jonah Hill, whose breakout starrer, "Superbad," is a certified sleeper hit. Made for less that $20 million, it was expected to do only so-so business at the tills due to its lack of star value. But its gross-out humor and story (about two teenage friends in a quest for alcohol and girls in their final high school days) have made it top the box office and gross a stunning $121 million to date—and still rising!

Secret

The secret of the movie's unexpected success? Producer Jude Apatow lets the cat out of the bag: "I never think in terms of who's famous, I just think in terms of who's funny." Despite (or maybe because of) their bumbling ways, Cera and Hill made viewers crack up—and that's all to the supergood!

He's on the wrong side of 20, but James Marsden is also making Hollywood sit up and marvel at the wide range of roles he's essayed in only a few years, as he continues to establish himself as one of the movies' most promising new leading men.

After attention-calling roles in "Hairspray," "Superman Returns" and the "X-Men" series, Marsden next tries a "fantasy-comedy" character on for size:

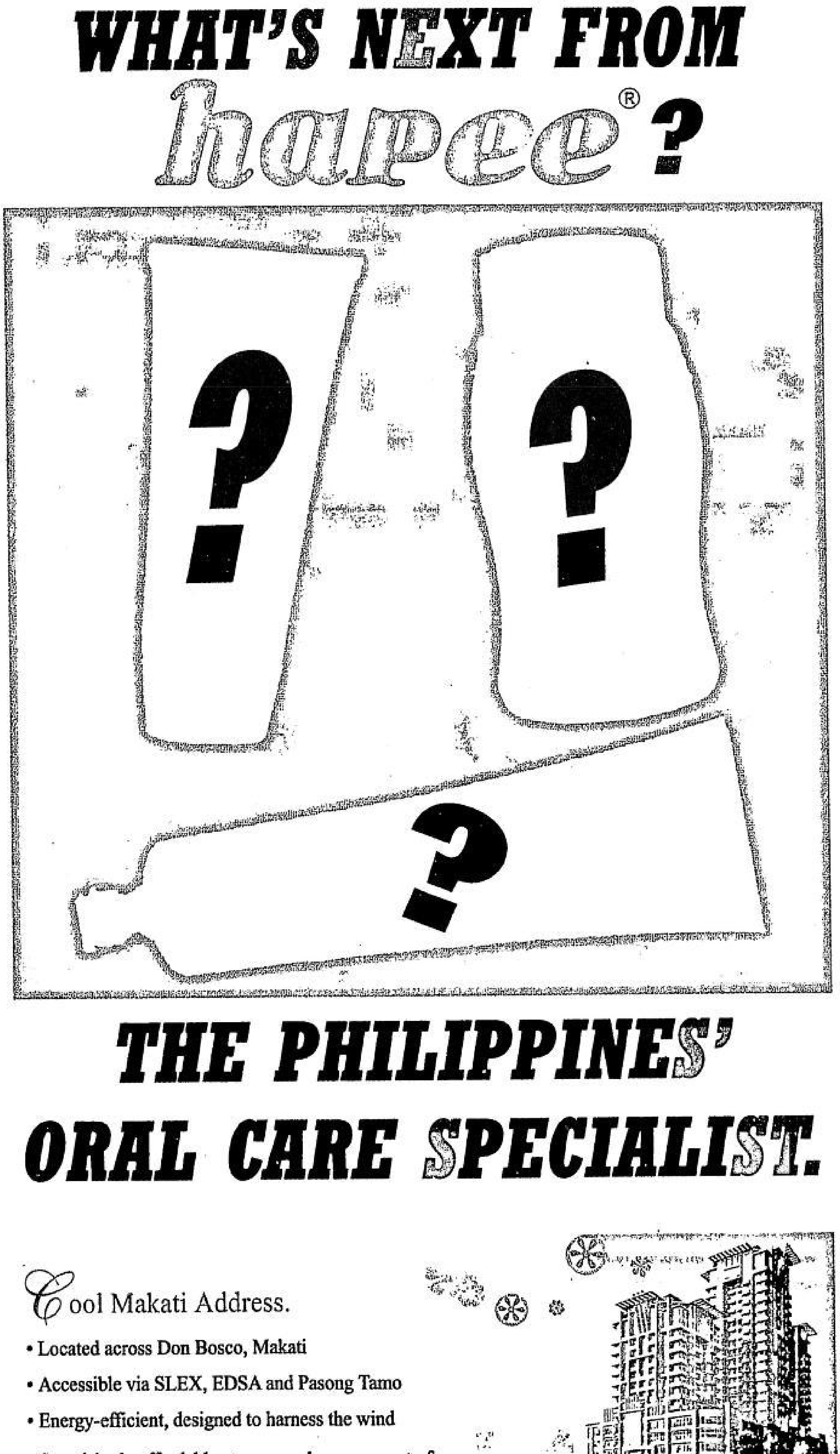
One-dimensional prince

In "Enchanted," he's cast as Prince Edward, a one-dimensional "prince much-too-charming" who looks for his beloved Princess Giselle—*only* to find her in loud and jivey modern-day Manhattan.

The film pokes a lot of fun at Prince Edward's character and his fussily fairy tale-ish ways, but Marsden isn't put off by this. In fact, he loves the ribbing and proceeds to overact even more shamelessly than ever!

That's the sign of a good and giving actor who isn't worried about how he's made to look and act—as long as it makes the character he plays more enjoyable for viewers to watch!

CERA AND HILL. Topbill the sleeper hit, "Superbad."



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Museum aims to capture essence of Hollywood and movies

LOS ANGELES—AFTER HONORING the movie business with Oscars for nearly 80 years, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is planning to celebrate cinema another way—on 3.24 hectares in the heart of Hollywood!

The academy has commissioned an architect to design what is probably the world's first museum dedicated to capturing the full scope of filmmaking.

15 branches

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures will occupy two city blocks not far from the Kodak Theater, where the Academy Awards are held. The movie-making crafts represented will correspond with the academy's 15 branches—including actors, producers, directors and screenwriters.

But, one thing is certain: "It's going to be what it should be: A monument to the art of film," Academy president Sid Ganis told the Associated Press.

"It's going to be immersive. It will express what film is about, and how it has shaped world cultures. I want people to understand how film relates to the world around them, how storytelling in the film sense is accomplished, and how, through the medium, we move ahead in our lives," Ganis explained. "I hope that's not too highfalutin', but *that's* what I'm hoping for!"

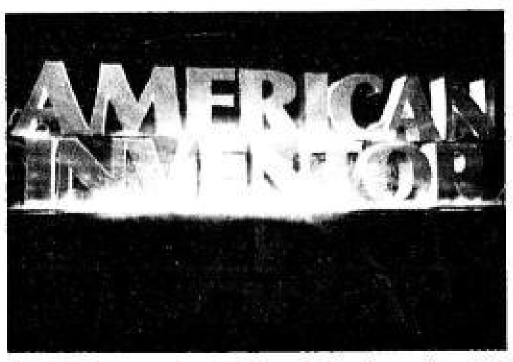
The academy has long wanted to establish a comprehensive film museum, "but not with the gusto, energy, and the commitment we've had over the last few years," he added.

Announcement

That fervor was reflected with the recent announcement of an architect for the museum complex: French firm, Atelier Christian de Portzamparc.

"I have a true passion for cinema, and I link this to architecture," mused De Portzamparc, who won the Pritzker Prize, architecture's highest honor, in 1994. In his hands, the museum will "become an important LA edifice," Ganis added.

Academy members are working with consultants to conceptualize the museum's contents and design. Fundraising, to the tune of $400 million, is expected to begin next year. Construction will begin in 2009. The facility opens in 2012. *AP*



GAY, STRAIGHT OR TAKEN?

REALITY shows dominate TV industry's programming lineup.

Three new channels spice up Sky Cable's programming

By Edmund L. Sicam

SKY CABLE IS ADDING THREE NEW channels: Velvet, Maxxx and Balls, effective Jan. 1 next year. It started airing previews of those channels' programs these past weeks. Judging from the shows I've caught, viewers are in for a lot of reality-based shows:

"American Inventor" comes from "American Idol" judge, Simon Cowell, and British tycoon Peter Jones. But, instead of singing, contestants come to the auditions with what they think will be the next great retail product.

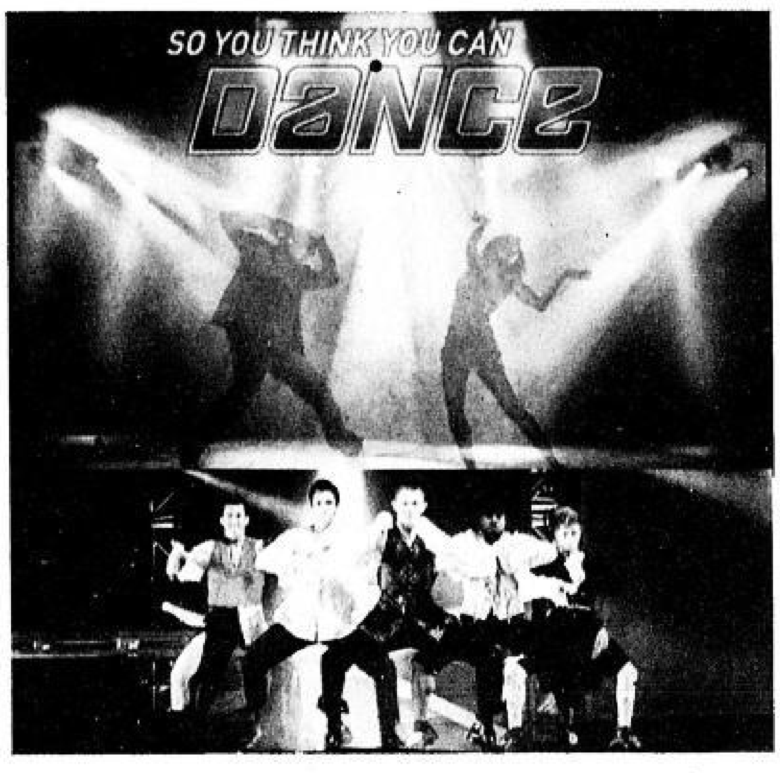
Six finalists

Like "American Idol," the show holds auditions in six American cities, and whittles down the list to six finalists who will each receive $50,000 to develop their inventions for a month. Viewers will then vote for the winning inventor—who will receive one million dollars!

As you can imagine, the auditions came up with a variety of entries, many of them outlandish and downright absurd. There's this guy whose entry was a stick that he insisted on calling a magic wand to ward off animal attacks.

Another one was fuming mad when the judges didn't like his entry—an electronic guitar whose jack was located in front instead of the back of the instrument. Still another brought a raincoat that enabled its owner to pee in public through a compartment hidden inside the raincoat.

There wasn't anything spectacular offered by the inventors. Two entries that got the judges' nod were a bike with a seat on the handlebar and a large shovel with a bag inside it to make sandbag filling easier during floods. The show's entertainment value lay in the oftentimes ridiculous gadgets offered by contestants, and the snide comments of the judges—none of whom, however, could match Cowell's acerbic tongue.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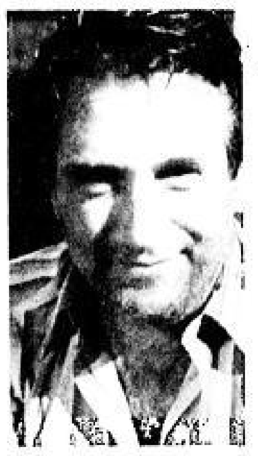

BALDWIN. Tries to shed some unwanted pounds on "Celebrity Fit Club."

Closer to "AI" is "So You Think You Can Dance," where contestants show off their terpsichorean skills. As usual, it was the nondancers who caught my attention. One obnoxious participant believed he was the world's best dancer—but it was obvious he couldn't dance to save his life! When he was rejected, he started cursing the judges, so all we heard were bleeps, because the language he used was not suitable for TV.

Then, I realized this was the same guy who also auditioned for "AI"—and put on the same act! He couldn't sing, either, but he got hostile when Cowell and company said no to him. I have a feeling he only wanted his 15 minutes of fame.

Various activities

"Celebrity Fit Club" features eight overweight celebrities who take part in various activities designed to get them to shed pounds and get in shape. Each week, each person is given a target which varies according to their present weight. The program is supervised by a nutritionist, a physical trainer and a psychologist.

In the telecast I watched, the only celebrity I recognized was Daniel Baldwin, who's not as well known as his brother, Alec. The others (like Mia Tyler, Ralphie May, Kim Coles, and Wendy Kaufman) are probably recognizable in the US. The physical trainer, Harvey Walden, had a run-in with one of the celebrities, because she did not bring her sneakers and was criticized for not being serious about losing weight.

The highlight of the show was when each of them stepped on a platform that was actually a weighing scale, and the judges revealed whether they had achieved their goal that week. All of them did—they lost an average of seven pounds each!

What makes the show entertaining is the feeling of superiority you get watching celebrities sweating it out while you relax in your easy chair. One of the contestants, a comedian, weighed more than 400 pounds, and he was really having a hard time moving around!

In "Meet the Marks," an unsuspecting person walks into a scripted comedic situation where a fictional family lives in a real house in a real neighborhood. He doesn't know that there are hidden cameras all over the house recording his reactions.

In the episode I watched, a computer tutor finds himself agreeing to pretend that he's the boyfriend of the daughter. Later, he's caught in a compromising situation when the real boyfriend shows up! This is an extended version of some of the pranks played on "Girls Behaving Badly," and succeeds because the cast is able to convince the victim that he's in a real situation. In the end, he's told that it was all a practical joke.

Last man standing

A sports-based reality show, "Ball Breakers," features a game of nine-ball pool with four contestants who each start out with $5,000. Unlike other pool games, this one has the players betting on the outcome of their bouts, as well as whether a player can make a shot. The last man standing goes home with $20,000. The game is easy enough to understand with the additional attraction of bets being made to sweeten the pot.

Other interesting reality shows include "Gay, Straight or Taken," where a girl dates three guys and decides which one is which; "I Want to be a Hilton," where Cathy Hilton, the mother of Paris, teaches contestants how to fit into high society, with the winner getting a $200,000 trust fund—and a taste of the lifestyle of the rich and famous—and "Back on Campus," where college students must live and attend classes with their parents.

Controversy

Among the actuality-based shows, "The View" is the most eagerly awaited because it has elicited controversy not only for the topics discussed on the show, but also because of some off-camera happenings.

Everyone is still talking about Rosie O'Donnell's departure from the show after she had a run-in with Donald Trump, as well as her heated debate with cohost, Elizabeth Hasselbeck. O'Donnell has been replaced by Whoopi Goldberg, who's more sober than Rosie.

Directing stars

By Nestor U. Torre

DIRECTING ACTORS WHO ARE STARS IS quite a trick: As you're directing the actor, the star aspect of his persona often gets in the way.

The actor part is supposed to be ready to do anything and everything to make the role assigned to him credible and memorable, but the star part has limits. Why? Because many stars become popular by playing a signature character pretty much over and over again—for fear that, if they make a radical shift, the viewing public won't dote on them as much.

Difficult role

In addition, some stars feel they're too successful and popular to have to work so hard at a role. "The people like me the way I am," they think smugly. "So, why do I have to exhaust myself playing a difficult role?"

The answer to that is: If stars keep doing pretty much the same roles over and over again for years and even decades, time will come when they will be too old to play those signature roles, and they'll look ridiculous. Also, their fans will tire of them and transfer their allegiance to a fresher and less cocky talent.

The possibility or threat of this happening should prompt even established stars to get off their pedestals, reanalyze their careers, and work as hard as they did when they were starlets.

This should also prompt their directors, who profess to care for them, to stop acting as yes men or *yayas* when they're handling popular luminaries.

Directors should force themselves to ignore the star aspect and focus on the actor part of the talents they mentor. In the long run, their star-friends will be grateful for the "tough love."

These thoughts come to mind, because we've noted a general deterioration of thespic achievement on TV and in the movies. Even our best actors are turning in livid, embarrassing performances, to viewers' general dismay.

Melodramatic

On TV, shows like "Maala-ala Mo Kaya?" used to challenge stars with difficult characters to portray. These days, however, even the performances on "MMK" have turned melodramatic and overly "indicated" for effect.

Things are much worse on *teleseryes* and *fantaseryes*, which specialize in lurid or utterly improbable characters. Sadly, some of those weird characters are assigned to our acting icons, who despite their great talent aren't able to rescue them from mediocrity.

And yet, some of those failed portrayals are held up as fine examples of the thespic craft, and even win awards! This sets the wrong standards for both actors and viewers—and we're all the poorer for it.

Rule

In the movies, mainstream productions have become so commercial that "for effect" performances are now the rule. It's a good thing that alternative, digital productions are filling in the blanks as far as challenging characterizations are concerned, which is why some major stars have agreed with alacrity to act in them.

Here, again, directors are key, because they motivate stars to come up with their portrayals, be they good, bad or indifferent.

The fact that the thespic level has dipped so low in these parts indicate that many directors have been remiss in upholding the requisite standards—so, it's time for them to reevaluate their own criteria for good work, and live up to them!

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Latin Americans ask, 'Where are our movies?'

SAO PAULO—LATIN AMERICAN cinema may be enjoying a Golden Age, but the movies must sometimes travel the world before they can get a showing on their home turf.

The governments of Venezuela, Mexico, Brazil and others are handing out money to encourage local productions, and the results are gaining wide acclaim, but they are struggling in a continent saturated with Hollywood blockbusters.

Films must first reach international festivals like Cannes or Venice to have a chance of getting a distributor around the world, before they can come home to Latin America.

Very difficult

"It's very difficult to watch Latin American movies in Latin American cinemas," shared Daniel Andrade, who was in Sao Paulo for a film festival from Oct. 19 to Nov. 8, where he was showing his new movie, "Anytime Soon."

He said "City of God" and "Central Station," both Oscar-nominated Brazilian movies, got to his native Ecuador only through their North American distributors. "Carandiru," a top Brazilian movie in 2003, was never shown in Ecuadorean theaters.

Adhemar Oliveira, an independent distributor who runs theaters in Sao Paulo, said he must go to Europe to get Latin American movies to show in Brazil, such as the acclaimed Chilean movie, "Machuca." "It's the same price to bring a movie from Asia, Europe, USA or Latin America," Oliveira observed.

Theaters

Brazil is now making so many movies—70 per year, up from 30 in the 1990s—that its 2,000 theaters hardly have room for all of them, let alone movies from the rest of Latin America.

A deal with Cuba to exchange a few movies was put aside. "How do you find space in a market inundated by American blockbusters for all the Brazilian productions, plus five Cuban titles?," asked cinema researcher Maria do Rosario Caetano.

Piracy has provided a solution, at least in some countries, said Bolivian filmmaker, Marcos Loayza. "People who like movies in Bolivia have two options: Go abroad or buy pirated DVDs," added Loayza, who was showing his documentary, "The State of Things," at the Sao Paulo festival.

"You can find everything in DVD copies—Latin American movies, Greek movies, Iranian movies," he explained. Bolivia has only 50 movie theaters, showing mostly Hollywood movies dubbed in Spanish.

Piracy was the route to the box-office success of "Elite Squad," a controversial story about police killings in the shanty towns of Rio de Janeiro—and the most successful Brazilian movie this year.

After immense success as a pirated DVD, it was released in Brazil by Paramount, and has sold 2.1 million tickets compared with 6.1 million for "Spider-Man 3."

In Venezuela, production has jumped from a half dozen movies per year to an expected 20 in 2008, thanks to help from President Hugo Chavez, said Mariana Rondon, who was presenting her second feature, "Postcards from Leningrad."

Her first movie was not even shown in her country—because no distributor was interested. "Postcards" has been in Venezuelan theaters only because of a new rule that gives local movies a mandatory showing.

New law

In Ecuador, the government is helping four movies to be released next year, almost doubling production. In Mexico, a new law will let companies invest tax money in films.

"There's a small-cinema revolution happening now in Mexico," reveals filmmaker Sergio Umansky, who spent seven months looking for a distributor for his movie, "It's Better If Gabriela Doesn't Die." "But, I hope my movies will start to be seen—not just the ones made by big studios!" *Reuters*

"CARANDIRU" (TOP), "CITY OF GOD" (ABOVE) AND "MACHUCA" (LEFT). Made the rounds of film festivals before they were shown in Latin American countries.

Horror flick lacks believability

By Nestor U. Torre

CHILLERS AND THRILLERS ARE interesting film types because their fear and suspense elements encourage them to use the movie medium's visual and aural resources to their fullest.

On the other hand, horror movies are prone to predictably hoeing the same row over and over again, so many of them end up as a blur and thus fail to stand out.

This is because the horror film mode is rife with conventions and cliches that have been done pretty much to death for many years now—howling wind, candles that are blown out by an invisible entity, phantasms that float across a room as though they were on a moving sidewalk, doors that mysteriously open and slam shut without warning, nightmares that turn chillingly real—etc.!

Biggest turn-off

But, the biggest turn-off when it comes to spooky films is the utter cluelessness and lack of good judgement on the part of some of the marauding ghosts' intended victims.

Take the recent chiller, "Hide and Seek," by Rayhan Carlos. A troubled family (played by Eric Quizon, Jean Garcia, Jannica Garcia, etc.) hies off to the province to live in an old house that (naturally) turns out to be haunted.

On the way, they encounter an angry-looking man holding a bloody *bolo*, and a little girl who appears and disappears seemingly at will.

Inside the creepy, old house, objects move from place to place, ghostly apparitions manifest themsleves—and yet, the terrified family stays put!

To the average person, this makes no sense at all. After two or three spooky manifestations, you can bet that we'll be running straight off to the next province, screaming all the way!

And yet, the movie's much-put-upon family stays. Why? Well, as a friend snidely observes, "If the victims left after the first spooky encounter, the production would end up as a very short film!" Yeah, right—like, maybe, seven minutes long?

That would never do, of course, But, our point is: On top of observing the conventions of horror films, the proceedings in them have to be *believable*. If not, empathy and genuine fear fly out of the window.

Emotions

Therefore, it behooves our horror movie directors to make sure that their films' situations and characters are acutely credible, so that viewers can fully empathize with them and more overwhelmingly feel the emotions of fear and terror that all cinematic ghost stories strive hard to instill in moviegoers' hearts.

"Hide and Seek" has some well-staged scenes, but the believability of its spooky situations leaves a lot to be desired. Aside from its terrified protagonist-victims' strange deficiency in the "fight or flee" instinct, the characterization of the movie's principal ghostly tormentors is similarly suspect.

Most dubious of all is the man with the bloody *bolo* who keeps reappearing all over the place. We're informed that he killed his wife and daughter because he (mistakenly) thought that his spouse was passionately involved with their wealthy employer, but the transference of his anger to the new family in the haunted house is psychologically inchoate.

As a result, his participation in the story appears to be limited to his providing the occasional "scare tactics" that keep viewers' fears in full furl. This approach is efficient and expedient, but falls short of genuine storytelling creativity.

On point of performance, Eric Quizon and Jean Garcia make a rather ungainly "leading couple" combination, and Garcia lacks the sympathetic quality needed to elicit viewers' concern and empathy. More astute casting could have put the movie's central relationship at better service to its dramatic cogency.

Inspiring TV series features medical miracles

By Lilia Borlongan-Alvarez

MORE CHILLING THAN "I SHOULDN'T Be Alive," the Discovery channel's new series, "Life or Death," features medical miracles involving ordinary people stricken with extraordinary illnesses.

Not to be confused with TV accounts of clinical deaths, "Life or Death" presents a blow-by-blow account of how people contract rare diseases, go through routine laboratory tests, and find out they're afflicted with illnesses worse than their doctors' initial impression.

One of the first episodes showed a 22-year-old girl who tripped while skiing with her parents. She was taken to hospital to see if she had suffered any fracture. The tests came out negative, but she was still feeling strange. Doctors suspected spinal meningitis, but a diagnostic procedure also turned out negative. She felt better after she was declared with a clean bill of health.

Intolerable pain

The following day, however, she suddenly felt shooting, intolerable pain in her head. She was once again rushed to the hospital and was found to have suffered a massive stroke that paralyzed her. Specialists then opened up her skull to fix whatever was wrong with her brain. A second and third surgery followed to fight bacterial infection. Only tubes stuck into different parts of her body kept her alive.

By now, her weight had gone down to 70 pounds, and she was exposed to multiple organ failure even after very aggressive treatment. Whether it was by a stroke of luck or divine intervention, she finally recovered, went through therapy and began to walk. Her recovery was phenomenal! The succeeding scenes showed a beaming young woman living a full life—and thankful for her second lease on life.

Another episode featured a middle-aged couple from New Mexico travelling to New York to close a business deal that culminated in some late-night partying.

The following day, they experienced malaise and thought they caught the flu—the man had high fever, his breathing was very shallow, and he was coughing nonstop.

At the ER, he was suspected to have contracted the hanta virus, which is carried by rodents and whose symptoms closely resemble the flu. It's caused by exposure to mice droppings or contaminated dust.

The couple was immediately given intravenous antibiotics, to which the woman responded well. Her husband, however, got worse. Blood tests and X-rays were performed to check if he had contracted the "plague," a disease brought about by a bacterium from fleas in rodents. This disease has not been heard of since the late 14th century—when it struck Europe and wiped out about two-thirds of the continent's population!

The hospital then alerted public health authorities about a possible outbreak of the disease in 21st century New York. Meanwhile, the woman was interrogated by the FBI. There was concern about the possibility of the couple being bio-terrorists!

Investigators were immediately dispatched to the couple's home in New Mexico, where federal agents found no evidence linking them to terrorism. But, they learned that, indeed, the man had been exposed to bacteria from fleas in rodents in the mountains during a recent hiking trip.

Prosthetic feet

After eight weeks in the hospital and a medically-induced coma, the worst was yet to come—the man's blackened feet had to be amputated to save his life! Today, he wears prosthetic feet, but is thankful for having survived his medical ordeal.

This series is not for the faint-hearted because of its graphic scenes (such as amputating a foot or sawing a skull). It takes viewers on a "journey" that, as seen through computer-generated images, shows the effect of viruses and bacteria in the human body. It introduces medical concepts that are explained in layman's terms.

More than illustrating the wonders of medical science and computer technology, the show impresses upon viewers that tragedy can strike when you least expect it—but life continues to thrive, by the grace of God's will!

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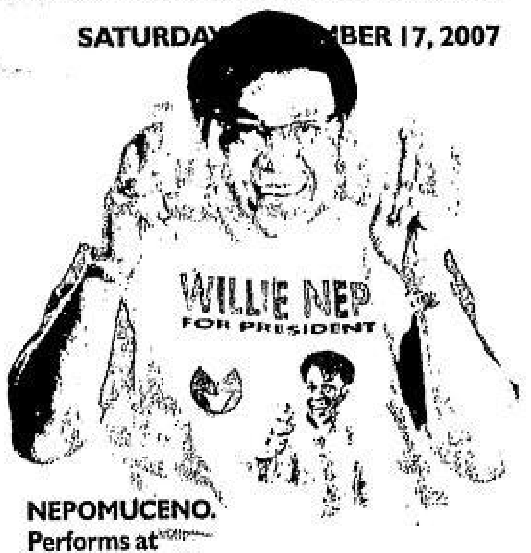
PBO unveils November treats



NEPOMUCENO. Performs at Eastwood today.

MONTAGE

JUDY ANN SANTOS PLAYS THE TITLE role in "Miss Pinoy," PBO's Premier's big draw for November. Also watch out for "Greatest Hits Finale" with pop icons, Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Rey Valera, Nonoy Zuñiga and Marco Sison, and (on Nov. 23 at 9:30 p.m.) "The Cooler" with Maria Bello, William H. Macy and Alec Baldwin.

PBO Pambansang Premiere treats kids to the free showing of "Mr. Magiorum's Wonder Emporium," a fantasy romp topbilled by Dustin Hoffman, Jason Bateman and Natalie Portman, in Cagayan de Oro City at 7 p.m. on Nov. 26 at SM CDO Cinema One. Plus "The Anne Curtis Special" at 9:30 p.m. on Nov. 30.

Other movie or concert highlights: "Mark B: Pop Heartthrob." Nov. 19, "Beloved." Nov. 20, "Annie B." Nov. 21, "'Pag Oras Mo, Oras Mo Na." Nov. 22, "Ang Boyfriend Kong Gamol." Nov. 24, "Tulak ng Bibig, Kabig ng Dibdib." Nov. 25, "Night of the Champions." Nov. 26, "Apoy sa Puso." Nov. 7, "My Pledge of Love." Nov. 28, "Ginto't Pilak." Nov. 29, "Epifanio, Ang Bilas Ko."

Movies on TV

On Cinemax today at 9 a.m., "Bird on a Wire." Nov. 18 at 6:30 a.m., "Wyatt Earp." Nov. 19 at 7 a.m., "Up Periscope." Nov. 20 at 11 a.m., "Jason and the Argonauts." Nov. 21 at 7 a.m., "Paris When It Sizzles." Nov. 22 at 5:30 p.m., "Man of the House." Nov. 22 at 9 a.m., "The Sons of Katie Elder."

ADAMS. Plays a princess in fantasy . feature, "Enchanted."

CHAN. Sings at Camp Aguinaldo tomorrow.

SUGARPOP. Host their own show on Q-11.

'Beowulf' in 3D

Robert Zemeckis' new fantasy adventure, "Beowulf," is being shown in 3D format at the Imax Theater at SM Mall of Asia. Inspired by the ninth-century English epic poem, the film combines digitally enhanced live-action filmmaking technology with an all-star cast led by Angelina Jolie, Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins and John Malkovich.

New tracks

The repackaged edition of "Edu Manzano's World's Greatest Dance Steps" features six new tracks, including "Papaya Christmas," "Beautiful Girls" and "Angels."

Join the Extreme Papaya video contest on Manzano's game show, "Pilipinas, Game Ka Na Ba?," on Channel 2.

'Snow White'

Ballet Philippines' adaptation of "Snow White" will be staged at Starmall Las Piñas today, as presented by Senate President Manny Villar and Rep. Cynthia Villar. Call 872-5249.

'Enchanted'

Amy Adams plays Princess Giselle in the fun fantasy film, "Enchanted." The fairytale princess is thrust into present-day Manhattan by an evil queen portrayed by Susan Sarandon, and changes her views on life and love after meeting a handsome lawyer (Patrick Dempsey).

Abdul Candao

Vienna-based tenor Abdul Candao sings on "Concert at the Park" tomorrow at 5 p.m. He will perform arias and songs by Lehar, Zeller, Kalman and Silos.

'Seven Days of Laughter'

Don't miss master impersonator Willie Nepumuceno's show, "Seven Days of Laughter," today at 6 p.m. at Eastwood's Central Plaza, Eastwood City.

Israeli Film Festival

At 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 20, the Israeli Film Festival opens at Greenbelt 3, Cinema 5. The opening film is "Someone, to Run With," a story about growing up and discovering the true meaning of friendship and love.

VAUGHN AND GIAMATTI. Topbill the Yuletide comedy, "Fred Claus."

'Fred Claus'

Sneak previews of "Fred Claus" will be held in selected cinemas on Nov. 19 and 20. The Yuletide movie stars Vince Vaughn as Santa Claus' "black sheep" brother. Paul Giamatti plays Santa.

'The Nutcracker'

Philippine Ballet Theater stages the well-loved holiday ballet, "The Nutcracker," today at 3 and 8 p.m. at the CCP. Call 632-8848.

'Planet Q'

The preteen singing group, Sugarpop, hosts Q-11's newest show, "Planet Q," a one-hour program that showcases interesting features on animals, nature and the environment.

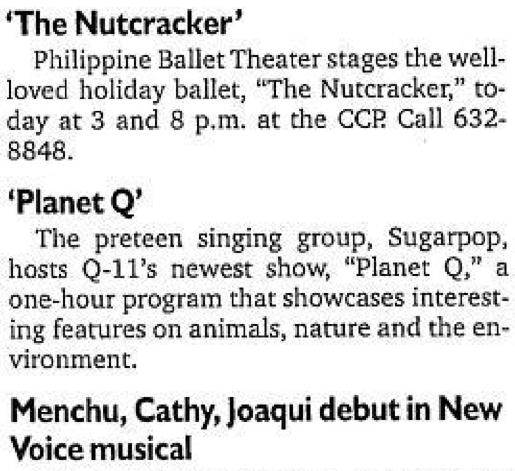
ISRAELI Film Fest unreels at Greenbelt 3 starting Nov. 20.

Menchu, Cathy, Joaqui debut in New Voice musical

Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Joaqui Valdes and Cathy Azanza make their New Voice Company debut in the theater company's reimagined staging of Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods," which runsevery Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m., at the Music Museum.

Tommy Abuel likewise appears in his first New Voice production in a special cameo. The production also boasts of the special participation of Tami Monsod, who voices the Giant's Wife.

TheTony Award-winning musical—which follows the story of the Baker and his Wife in their search to find four magical items that belong to Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack (from "Jack and the Beanstalk") and Little Red Riding Hood to break a witch's curse—features a talented cast that also includes Michael Williams, Lynn Sherman, Jamie Wilson, Juno Henares, Julia Abueva, Angela Padilla, John Mulhall, Madeleine Nicolas, Missy Maramara, and Crisel Consunji. Call 896-5497.

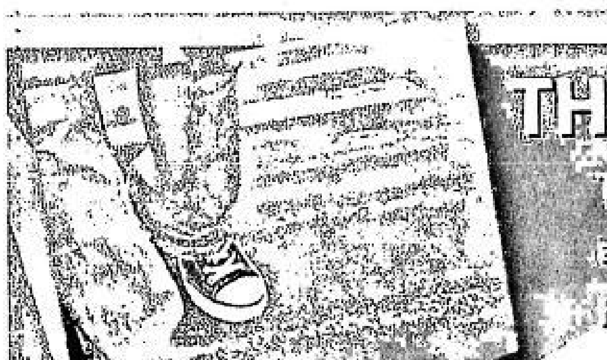


CURTIS. Featured in PBO Special.

Post-birthday dinner

Devotees of the Nuestra Señora de Piat Foundation are celebrating Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan's 75th birthday with a post-birthday dinner tomorrow at the Camp Aguinaldo Officers' Club. Holy Mass is set at 5:30 p.m. After dinner, Jose Mari Chan will sing for the birthday celebrant and his guests. Cory Quirino will emcee the affair, which is a fundraising event to build the Haven for Retired Priests in Barrio Magdurulug, Solana, Cagayan. For details, text 0917 899-2521.

YULO, MONSOD AND AZANZA. Play pivotal roles in NVC's Sondheim musical.



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Movie theme songs no longer rule the pop charts

LOS ANGELES—THERE WAS a time around 1997 when, no matter where you were—in the car, on the StairMaster, at the dentist's office—you couldn't help but hear "My Heart Will Go On," the soaring Celine Dion ballad from "Titanic."

Resistance was futile. It went on, and on, and on—an example not just of great marketing, but of the kind of movie theme song that no longer exists.

Big and poignant

Those extinct songs were big and poignant on their own, but they were also used skillfully within their films. They became "a souvenir" of the theatrical experience, as six-time Oscar-nominated songwriter Diane Warren puts it.

For decades, theme songs like "Evergreen" or "Arthur's Theme" or "(I've Had) The Time of My Life" were huge radio hits, often peaking at No. 1 on the pop chart, and going on to win the Academy Award for Best Original Song. (All the tunes mentioned so far have received the honor—the list of winners throughout the 1970s, '80s and '90s is staggering.)

Mood

But, in the past few years, filmmakers like Cameron Crowe and Wes Anderson (following the example set by directors like Martin Scorsese) have been more likely to choose pre-existing songs to punctuate a moment or create a certain mood.

Then, those soundtracks—like the ones for Crowe's "Vanilla Sky," Anderson's "Rushmore" or

MOVIE/ G2

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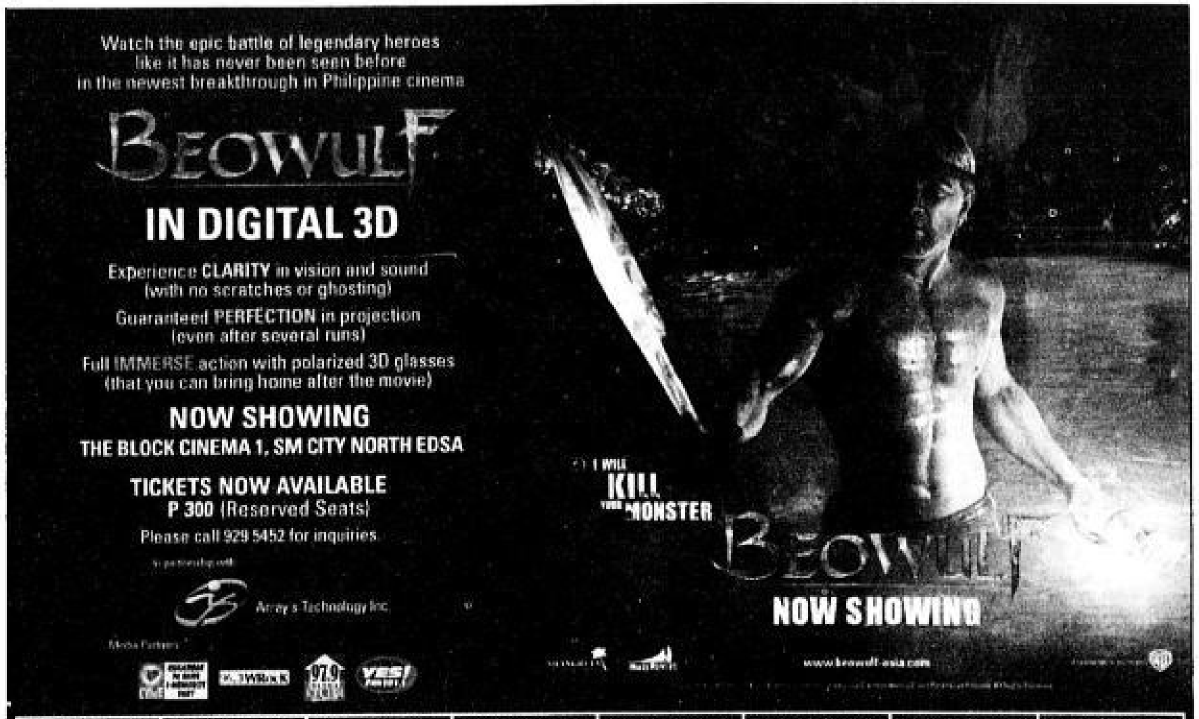

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1:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
4:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
7:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
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Note: Screening schedule and seat availability subject to change without prior notice.

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6 RESERVED
7 BEOWULF
8 ONE MORE CHANCE
9 RESERVED
10 BOOGEYMAN 2
11 ONE MORE CHANCE
12 THE NANNY DIARIES

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 BEOWULF
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 LIONS FOR LAMBS/BALLS OF FURY
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 BEOWULF
10 ONE MORE CHANCE
11 THE NANNY DIARIES
12 RESIDENT EVIL 3/ CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 THE NANNY DIARIES
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE GHOST SON
4 HIDE & SEEK
5 THE GAME PLAN
6 BOOGEYMAN 2
7 BEOWULF
8 ONE MORE CHANCE
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 WE OWN THE NIGHT
11 THE NANNY DIARIES
12 CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 THE GAME PLAN

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2 BOOGEYMAN 2
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4 THE NANNY DIARIES
5 30 DAYS OF NIGHT/ CARTOON NETWORK
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
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5 THE NANNY DIARIES
6 RESERVED
7 WE OWN THE NIGHT
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 LIONS FOR LAMBS/ CARTOON NETWORK

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1 BEOWULF
2 THE NANNY DIARIES
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
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"ARMAGEDDON." Featured the No. 1 hit, "I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing."

Movie theme songs . . .

From page G1

Zach Braff's "Garden State"—go on to be popular themselves.

It seems there's just no room on the pop charts anymore for an "Up Where We Belong" (from "An Officer and a Gentleman") or a "Take My Breath Away" (from "Top Gun"). Eminem's "Lose Yourself," from the 2002 film, "8 Mile," is the rare Oscar winner that's also had radio success. As catchy as "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" was, from 2005's "Hustle & Flow," it wasn't exactly radio-friendly.

What made those songs work, Warren explains, is that "they're hit songs, first and foremost. They fit the movie, and they exist outside the movie!"

Oscar nomination

"'I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing,' which earned Warren an Oscar nomination, was a hit song," she adds. "It helps that it was with 'Armageddon,' and it was used very well. But, I think Aerosmith would have had a hit with that song, anyway."

So, where did those original tunes go? Jesse Harris, the Grammy-winning songwriter of Norah Jones' hit, "Don't Know Why," who also wrote the music for Ethan Hawke's "The Hottest State," thinks filmmakers don't bother to seek them out anymore.

"What movies used to do," he enthuses, is "create a nostalgia that was specific to the film itself, and the only way to do that was to use original music."

Of course, radio has changed vastly: It has become more genre-specific over the past decade, which hurts enormous movie songs with intended mass appeal, said Kid Kelly, a DJ on Sirius satellite radio's top-40 channel.

He points out that adult contemporary stations, where many of those movie themes have been popular traditionally, can be broken down further to subgroups—they can either be "hot," "urban" or "soft." "There's so much fragmentation that it's hard to find the right song," he reasoned. "As a result, they stopped looking!"

EMINEM. His single, "Lose Yourself," won an Oscar in 2003.

Singer-songwriter Sondre Lerche, whose music appears in the Steve Carell comedy, "Dan in Real Life," thinks tastes have changed irrevocably from the 1970s and '80s.

Important decision

Kirsten Sheridan, daughter of veteran Irish filmmaker, Jim Sheridan, who's directing for the first time with the musical, "August Rush," considered using songs from Hansard's band, The Frames, but made "an important decision" to go with original music.

The movie follows the elusive connection between the lead singer of a rock band (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), a classically trained cellist (Keri Russell), and the duo's long-lost son (Freddie Highmore), who tries to reunite the family through song.

"We had three music supervisors hunting down three original songs for Jonny Rhys Meyers' band to perform and for Jonny to sing," Sheridan recalled. "I didn't want preconceptions with preexisting material. It was important for the film to feel real!"

John Sayles also wanted original music for "Honeydripper," about rival juke joints in 1950 Alabama, rather than choose blues or R&B songs people already knew. Sayles cowrote several of the tunes, something he's done for previous films including "Limbo" and "Sunshine State."

Special moment

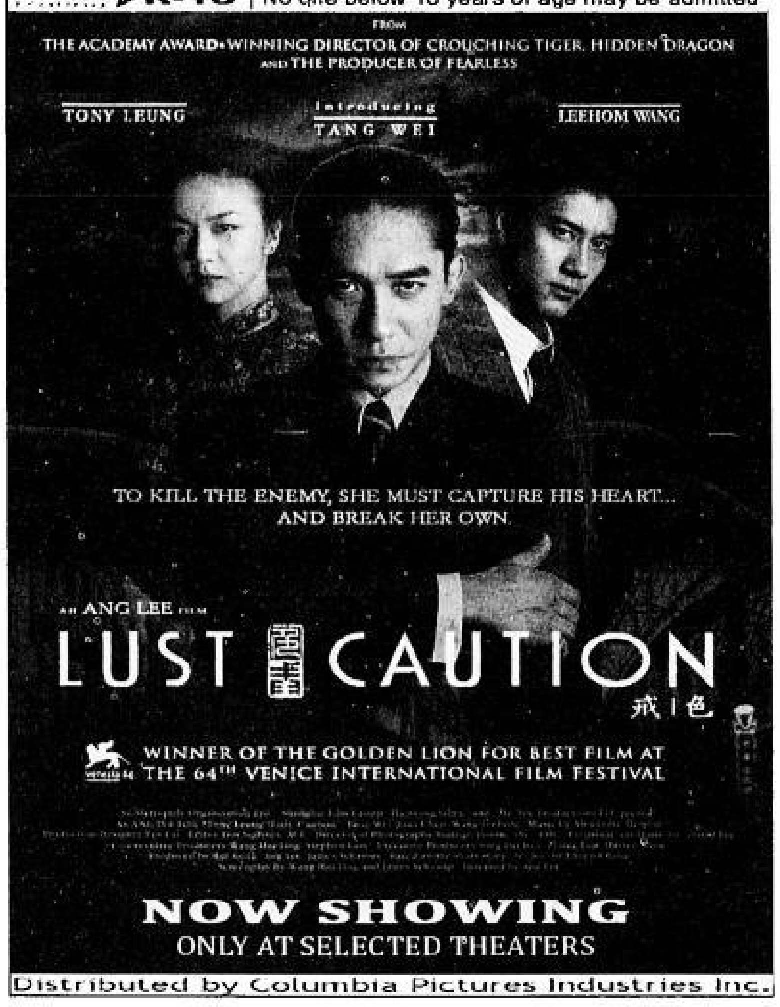
"We can tailor something more specifically by writing something to fit that special moment," he reasoned. Plus, writing original music is more cost-efficient, the longtime independent filmmaker added: "The film rights for music have shot way up from when I began. Larger publishing companies have bought out the smaller ones, so you can't find bargains anymore. These days, it's rare to get a song for less than $5,000. If it's a Beatles song, it can shot up to hundreds of thousands!"

Besides, picking the perfect pop song isn't as easy as it might sound, says Crowe, who has created iconic music moments in such movies as "Say Anything" and "Almost Famous."

Famous scene

The famous scene in "Say Anything," in which John Cusack holds a stereo above his head outside Ione Skye's window and blares Peter Gabriel's "In Your Eyes," almost featured a different tune.

"That scene needed to be the perfect song. We even brought in a songwriter to come in and write for that moment, but it didn't work!," he recalls. "Nothing worked but 'In Your Eyes'!" *AP*



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MUSIC MUSEUM	November 16,17,23 & 24,2007	" Into the Woods " musical	8:00 PM
	November 20 , 2007	Angelos	8:00 PM
	November 22 , 2007	Body Builders	6:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	Nov. 21, 22, 28 & 29 , 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

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Local indie scene thrives at Cinekatipunan

By Noelani Torre

RECENTLY, AS YOU MAY HAVE noticed, local independent films have been enjoying more time in the spotlight than usual. The local indie scene generally flourishes (and struggles) underground, and it's not often that the general moviegoing public is even aware of what's going on.

While this remains true these days, more and more people are growing tired of what seems to be the moribund state of mainstream cinema, and this results in an upsurge of interest in the fresh and innovative ideas that the indie scene has to offer.

New projects

One of the few venues where you can view new projects of both up-and-coming and established indie filmmakers is Mag:net Café on Katipunan ave. The café-gallery-performance venue hosts Cinekatipunan, a free daily screening of independent films by local and foreign filmmakers.

For the last two Saturdays of this month, today and on Nov. 24, Cinekatipunan is presenting films of alumni from the prestigious Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA), in celebration of the school's 30th anniversary.

Though film is not one of the art fields that students of the PHSA major in, many of its graduates are making a name for themselves in cinema. An event not to be missed, PHSA Nights at Mag:net's Cinekatipunan features not just films, but live performances and fora with its featured filmmakers, as well.

Editorial films take center-stage today, with featured shorts from new and seasoned filmmakers alike. Screening from 5 p.m. are King Catoy's "Unang Araw"; Jon Red's "Ignorante" and "Coup B'etat"; Karl Castro's "Manwal sa Paggawa ng Pelikula," and Raymond Red's "Anino."

"Unang Araw" and "Ignorante" are both public service ads running approximately one minute each and are part of "Rights," an omnibus film that deals with the issue of human rights violations.

"Coup B'etat" is a hilarious political satire from Jon Red, whose "Pain Things" is also currently showing at Robinsons Galleria's Indiesine. "Manwal sa Paggawa ng Pelikula," a 22-minute short about the trials of the moviemaking process, is directed by upcoming filmmaker, Karl Castro.

Raymond Red's "Anino," featuring Eddie Garcia, needs no introduction. Winner of the 2000 Palme D'Or for Best Short Film at the Cannes Film Festival, this brief (less than 13 minutes) movie packs quite a punch.

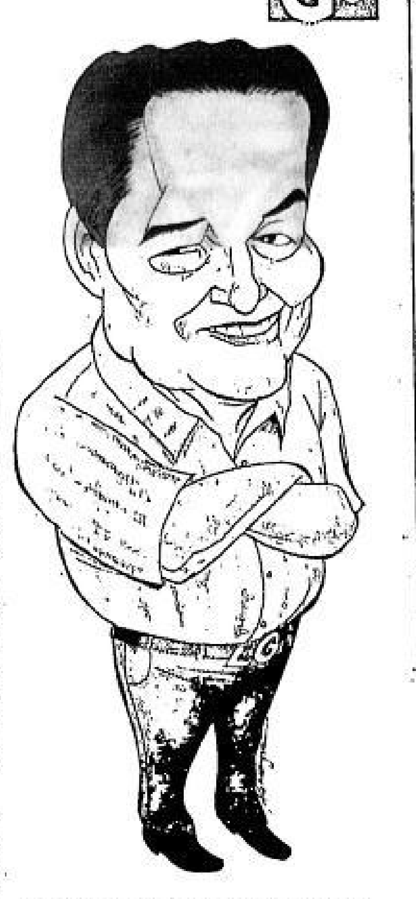
Forum

After the screening, "Red Talk," a forum with Raymond and Jon Red and Carol Bunoan-Red, will be held, followed by a live performance of the Makiling Ensemble band.

PHSA shares the limelight with Miriam College on Nov. 24, with the latter presenting student shorts. The PHSA program, Mt. Collaboracion, as its title implies, showcases a mix of documentaries, animation, shadowplay and dance.

Featured in the program are "Paglikha," performed by the Anino Shadowplay Collective, video by visual artist Don Salubayba and Teta Tulay; "Look" and "Tremble," performed by Mona Afable, videos by Don Salubayba; "Urgent," an animated piece by Carlo Tolentino; "Make Me a Child's Outfit in Adult Size," performed and choreographed by Donna Miranda, video by Pablo Biglang-awa, and "Walai," a documentary by young filmmaker, Adjani Arumpac.

For a different cinematic experience, check out what Cinekatipunan and the PHSA have to offer this November. Screenings start at 5 p.m.—and they're free!



GARCIA. Featured in Raymond Red's "Anino."

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Spectacular...

From page G4

isn't going to be of the battlefield variety. As for the dragon that brings about the great hero's end, well, it turns out to have a more personal connection to Beowulf.

All these—questions of parentage, lust for power, and plain old lust—are elements not present in the original, but they give the story more oomph and make the titular character a more interesting person.

Innovations

People, however, don't flock to the cinemas for a film's plot or characterization. "Beowulf" is a movie whose innovations in 3-D animation and performance-capture technology have long been awaited.

Zemeckis, who's been concentrating on making movies in this digitalized medium since 2004's "The Polar Express," shows us how the technology has advanced. Though the characters' skin still looks waxy and their eyes still aren't quite real enough, everything has a smoother and more integrated feel.

The movie's action sequences—and there are quite a few—are gratifyingly spectacular, and the soft, appropriately mythic lighting makes the medium work. Its visual pyrotechnics and the occasionally amusing, anachronistic script will engage audiences. Jolie's gold-coated presence alone is sure to attract a certain demographic.

Still, despite being based on an actual epic, "Beowulf," the movie, isn't grand or powerful enough to be one itself. But, then again, Zemeckis doesn't seem to be aiming for that.

Yes, it's fun to watch, but if you really want to be wowed, you'd best head to the nearest Imax cinema to get the complete 3-D experience!

Paying it forward

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

AN 84-YEAR-OLD man walked into Pateros Mayor Joey Medina's office and said, "I want to donate a piece of land for you to build a school on." Overjoyed, Mayor Medina welcomed the offer of Lt. Col. Agripino Manalo. When word about the donation spread, people were amazed by Manalo's generous offer. But, it was the old man's desire to make a contribution to the town that he grew up in. He wanted to share what he had and leave a legacy for future generations.

Golden years

But, some people questioned the offer. This incident brings to mind a story in the ancient Vedic literatures about a powerful king who left his kingdom after reaching his golden years.

In the twilight of his life, a great sage advised him to prepare for his impending death and leave material opulence behind. He wanted to focus on the actual goal of his existence—his return to the spiritual realm!

One day, the citizens woke up and found the king gone. He took nothing and no one with him—he walked out of his kingdom and proceeded to the forest. He lived a simple life and offered it to the Supreme Being.

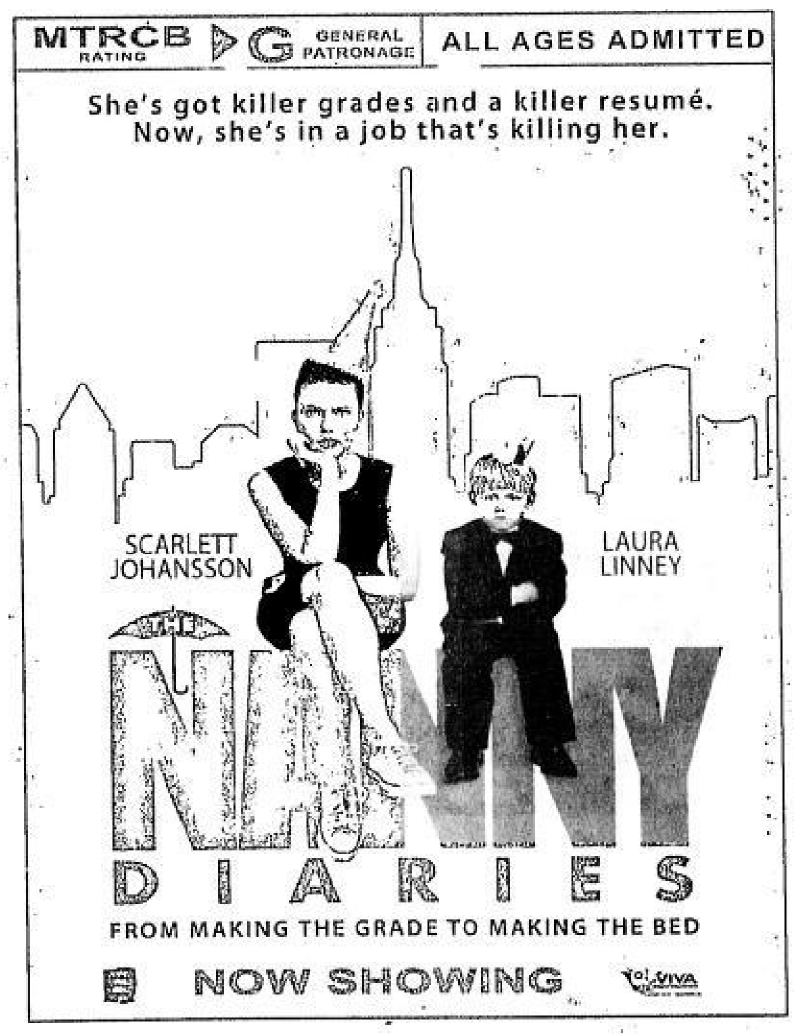
Wealth

If such a king can give up all his wealth, why can't we do the same? Why do we hold on to life's material burdens?

The materialistic society applauds those who accumulate more and questions those who have no appetite for superficial riches. Some people don't see the value of spiritual wealth. They seek security in flimsy and glittery shelters.

Wise men are aware that material resources become truly valuable only if they're used in the service of the Supreme Being, and for the welfare of His children. There's higher and deeper satisfaction in giving one's life and possessions for the ultimate cause. There's peace and happiness in serving the Supreme.

On his journey "back home," Manalo took a big step forward by making a sincere offering. We can learn from his generosity and wisdom!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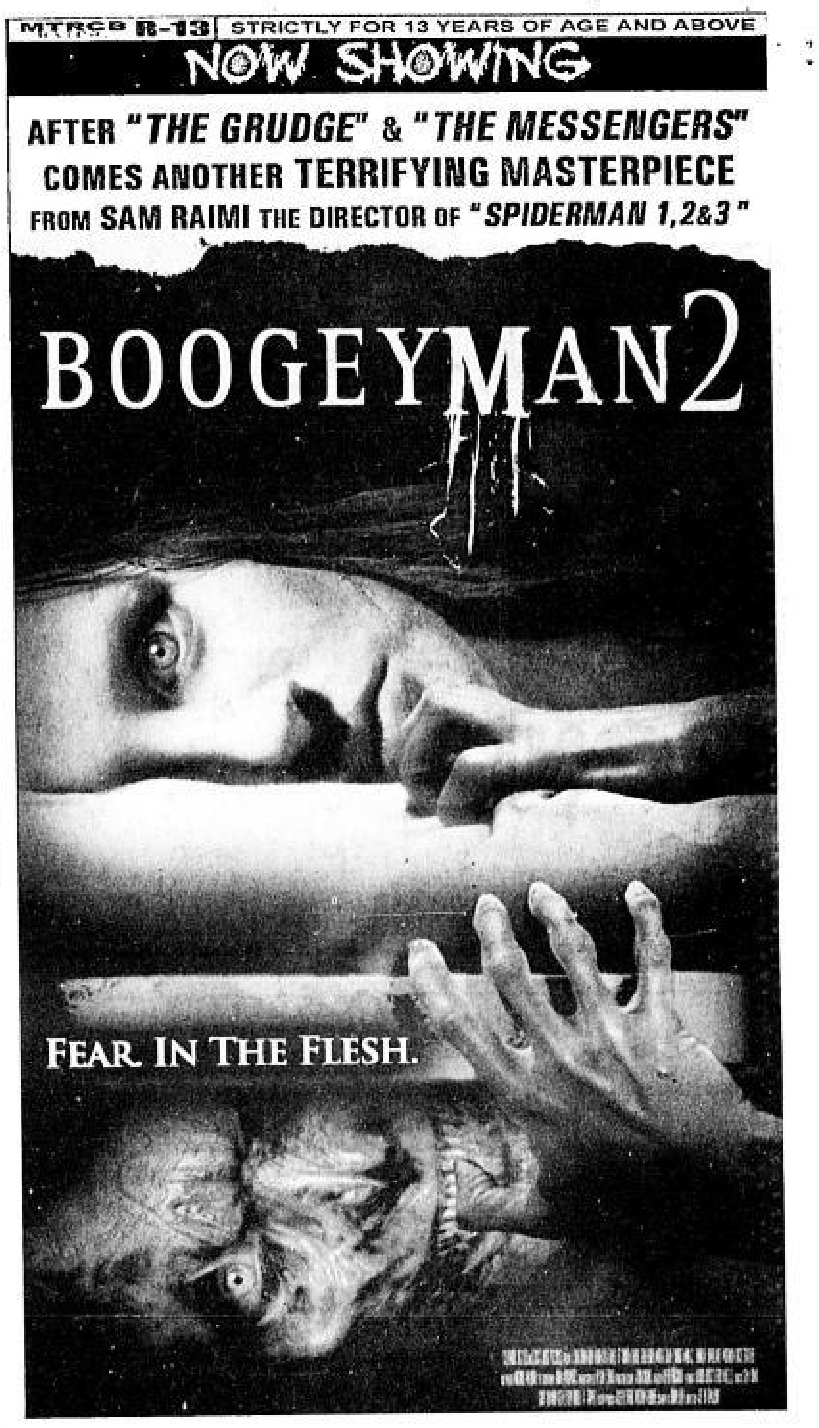
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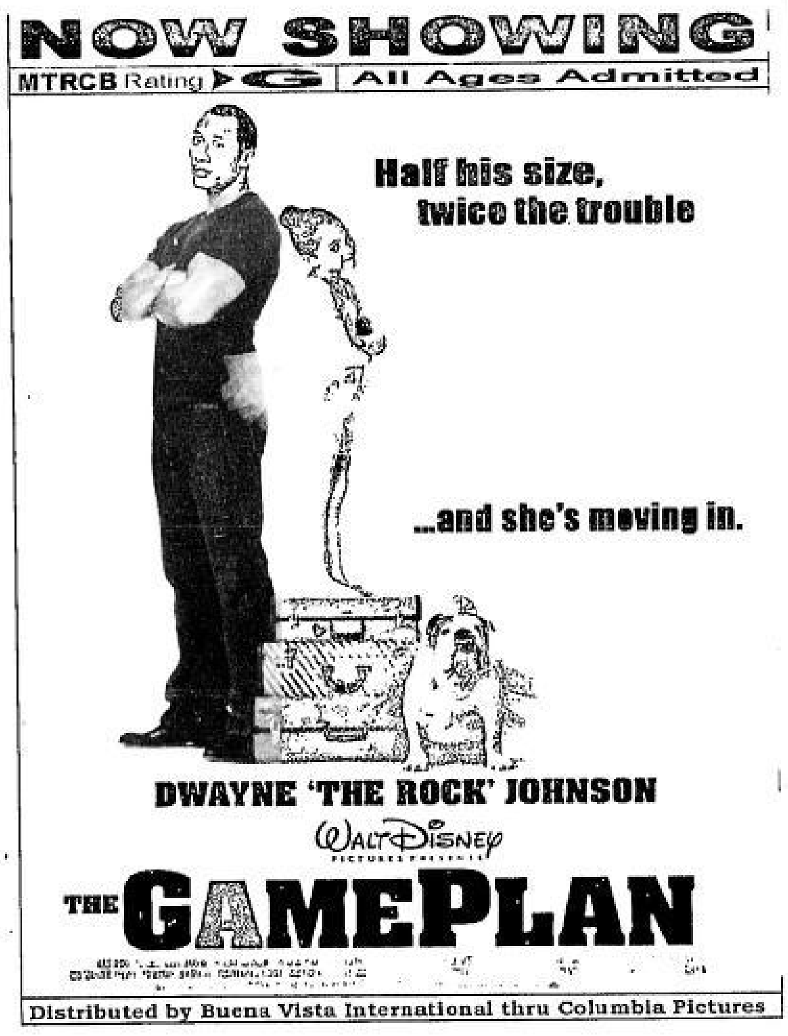
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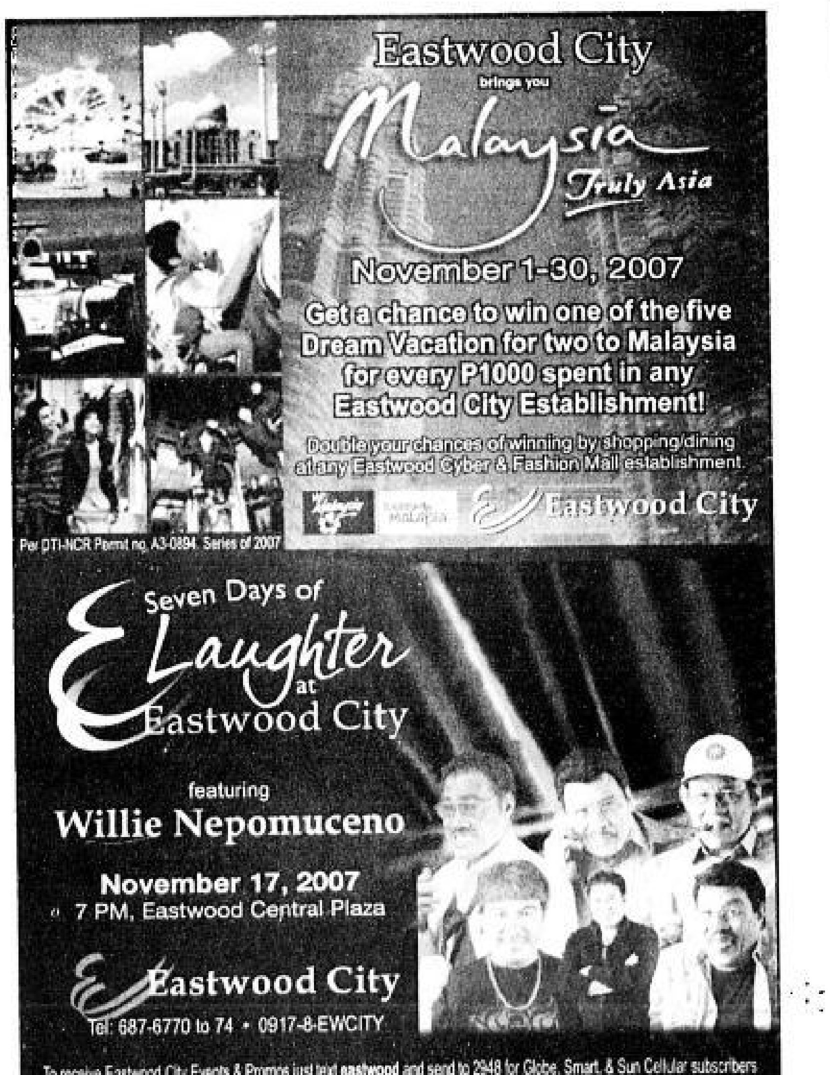
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JOLIE. Plays the protagonist's gold-coated mother *and* monster.

Spectacular action scenes spice up Zemeckis' modern take on 'Beowulf'

By Noelani Torre

IT MAY BE THE MOST FAMOUS, AS WELL as the only surviving Old English heroic epic poem in existence, but anyone who's had to read "Beowulf" for English Lit will tell you that it's hardly what you'd call a page-turner.

Though of much interest to historians and literary scholars, for most people, "Beowulf" has, unsurprisingly enough, been more of an ordeal to go through rather than something to be enjoyed. Director Robert Zemeckis' ultra-modern cinematic take on this centuries-old tale, however, changes that.

Original tale

Injecting life, excitement, sex, and a good helping of camp to the story of a man battling a monster, the monster's mother and, later, a dragon, the novel's movie adaptation doesn't exactly remain faithful to the original tale, but your ordinary moviegoing public is probably not going to mind.

The script, penned by author Neil Gaiman and "Pulp Fiction's" co-writer, Roger Avary, has done away with many of the 3,183-line epic's details, and its scriptwriters have added quite a few of their own.

The plot's bare bones are still there: An old king's mead hall is being menaced by a monster; a hero from across the seas slays the monster, confronts the monster's mother, and later becomes king. After reigning for many years, he dies while killing another menacing monster (this time, a dragon).

In the cinematic version, however, Beowulf (Ray Winstone) is not the clear-cut hero of old, but a flawed mortal whose motivations aren't always noble and pure. Then, there's the monster Grendel's mother (who's a real monster in the poem).

In the film, however, she is transformed into a 3-D performance-captured, nude Angelina Jolie coated with gold. She drips with the promise of great power. As you can guess, Beowulf's confrontation with her

SPECTACULAR/ G3

WINSTONE. Portrays the flawed hero in the big-screen adaptation of the only surviving Old English epic.

AT THE CINEMAS

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GREENBELT 3	1 THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	3 LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPER BAD GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE NANNY DIARIES GUARANTEED SEATS		
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ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Pre-Christmas 10 to 10 Sale! November 16 to 18 and 23 to 25
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Canon Camera Exhibit November 13 to 19; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET!	Seussical The Musical November 16 to 18; 11:30am, 3pm & 6pm; Activity Center
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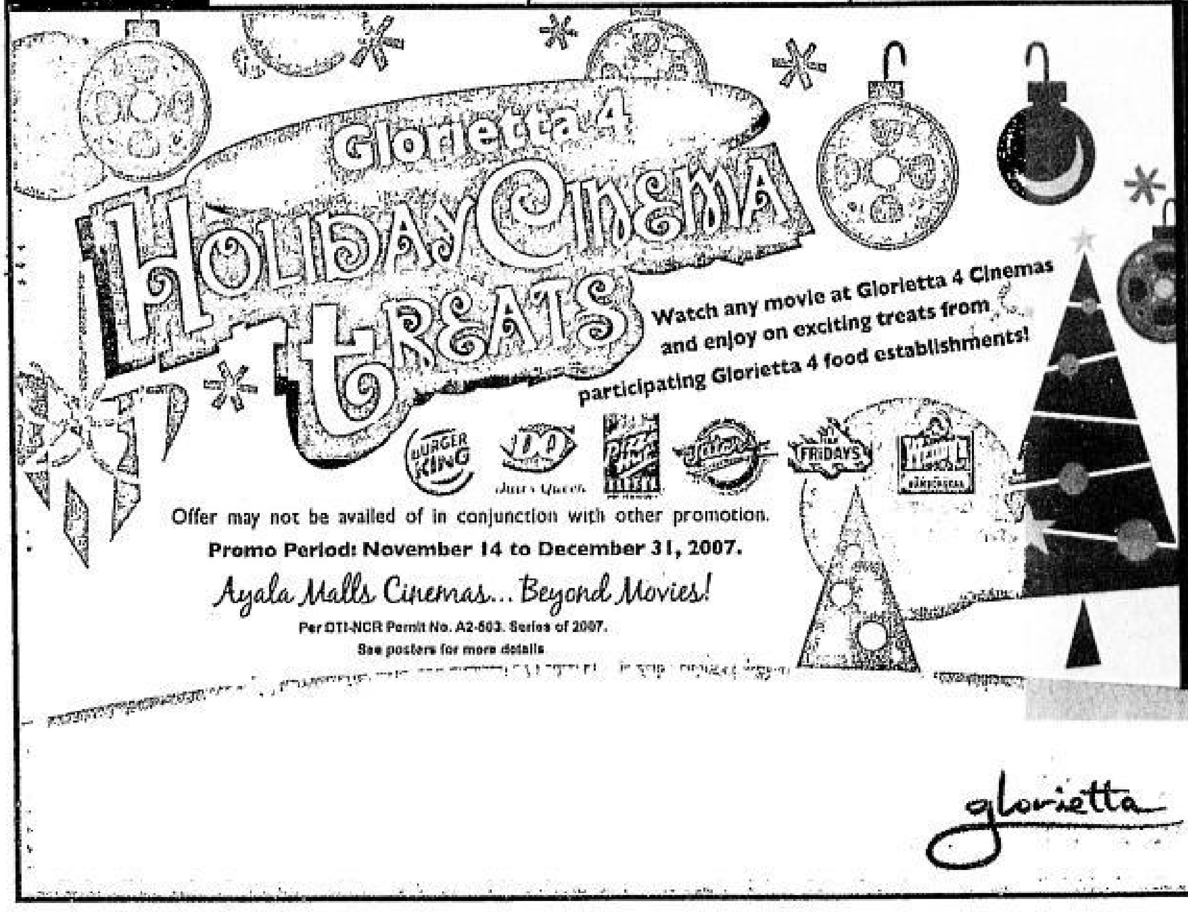
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Kyla with Tiples De Sto. Domingo November 17; 7pm; TriNoma Park Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks December 9; 6pm; Activity Center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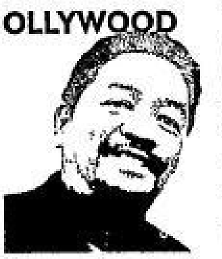
9:00pm	9:30pm	9:00pm
10:00pm	10:30pm	10:00pm
11:00pm	11:30pm	11:00pm

sparks of passion
Christmas Light and Music Festival
Nov. 10 to Dec. 30
Bonifacio

Jake Gyllenhaal takes rumors in stride

GYLLENHAAL. "Fatherhood requires presence of mind and selflessness. I don't know if I have those qualities just yet, but being a dad is something that I look forward to." RUBEN V. NEPALES

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—PERHAPS Jake Gyllenhaal was just in a joking mood. Or maybe, because his mom, scriptwriter Naomi Foner, was around, he wanted to keep the press con light.

Jake always gives humor-tinged interviews, but on this particular Sunday morning, he was especially funny. Even on the few answers that he managed to be somewhat serious, he couldn't help but end them with amusing quips.

When told that sometimes people mistake his acclaimed film, "Brokeback Mountain," for Robert Duvall's made-for-TV movie, "Broken Trail," he disclosed that both movies employed the same make-up artist. Then, he quipped: "And that was Duvall's mustache I wore in 'Brokeback.'"

Jake's impressive acting career is, of course, no joke. He's one of the finest young actors today. In the political thriller, "Rendition," he costars with rumored girlfriend, Reese Witherspoon, but they don't have scenes together. Also in the movie are Meryl Streep and Peter Sarsgaard, who's married to the actor's equally gifted sister, Maggie Gyllenhaal.

Coveted role

When Jake wants to play a role in a movie, he really goes after it. He confirmed how he called up director Sam Mendes at 2 a.m. to ask for the coveted role in the Gulf War drama, "Jarhead." He shares: "It was an honor to be able to call an A-list director and have the confidence to say, 'I can play this part.' I told Sam, 'I will throw up in the sand for you!'"

In the following excerpts, note that this was Jake's press con with the journalists' association we belong to, so not all questions were mine. We can't take all the credit—or blame—for them:

Peter told us that you have the best job in the world—being an uncle to Ramona (Peter and Maggie's baby)…

It's wonderful to see the dynamic of a family change when a new life comes along. Everybody becomes his best self, and not in a cheesy way. Maybe it's actually cheesy *(laughing)*—but never mind. It feels wonderful! Ramona is extraordinary person, like her parents!

Are you looking forward to being a father someday?

I know what a responsibility that is, and I don't say that in a romantic sense. It requires presence of mind and selflessness. I don't know if I have those qualities just yet, but being a dad is something that I look forward to.

You and Peter shaved your heads in

JAKE/ H2

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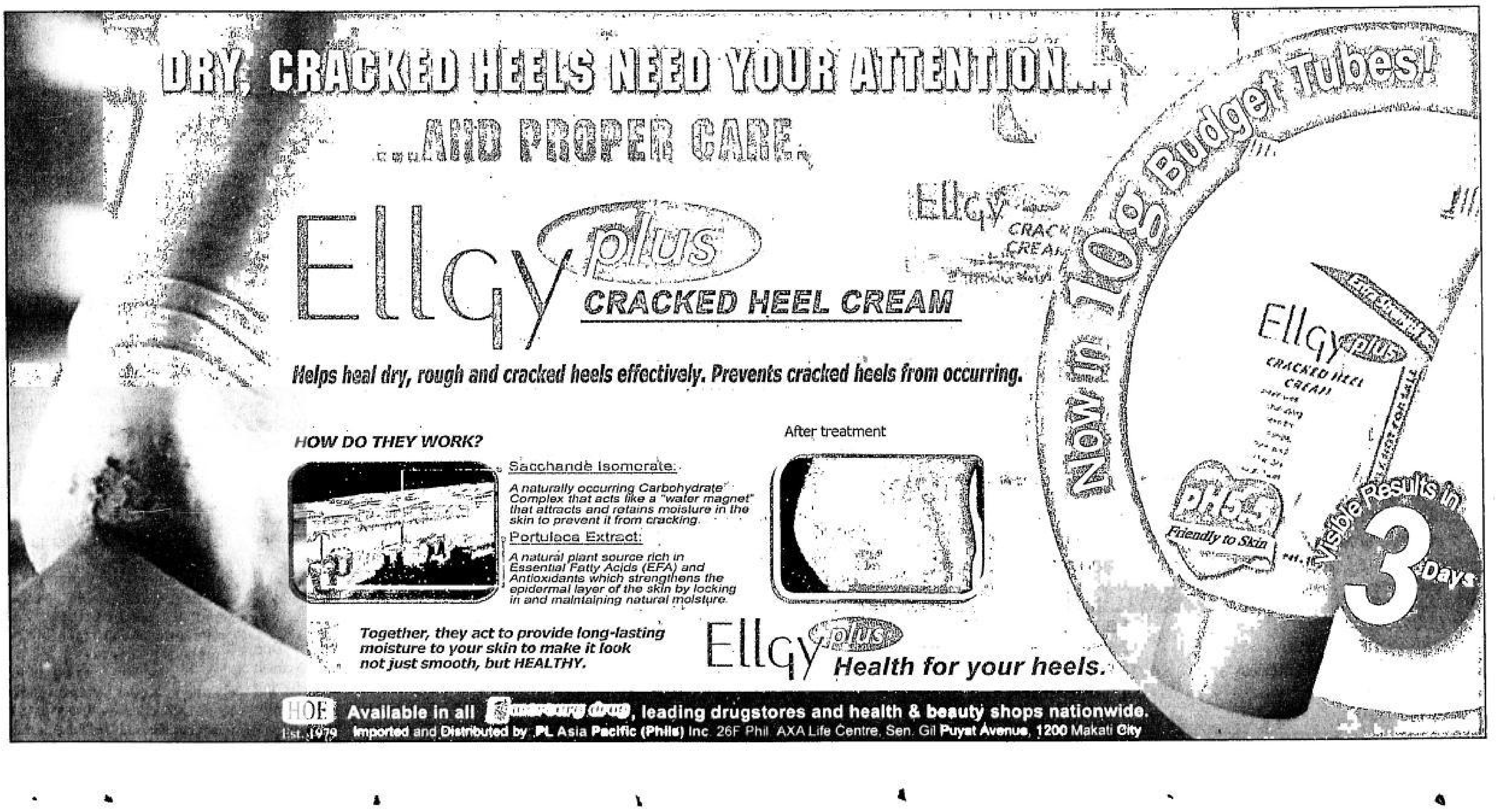

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GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX P160 130 Indie Sine 110 632-9116

1 LIONS for LAMBS • THX
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

2 BEOWULF
11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

3 THE NANNY DIARIES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 SUPERBAD
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 ONE MORE CHANCE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 BEOWULF
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 30 DAYS of NIGHT 12:40 3:00
WE OWN THE NIGHT 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 IndieSine: PAIN THINGS
1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

9 GAME PLAN
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

10 BOOGEYMAN 2
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

showing on
NOVEMBER 14 to 20
Robinsons Movieworld
Galleria

Christian Vazquez
Che Ramos
Paolo Villaluna
at Michael de Mesa
PAIN THINGS
May kulay ba ang panaginip mo?
FILIPINO PICTURES and PELIPULA
written & directed by JON RED

MTRCB Rating: R18

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 30 DAYS of NIGHT
12:35 3:00 5:35 8:00 10:00

2 BOOGEYMAN 2
11:10 1:25 3:40 5:55 8:05 10:00

3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
12:50 2:40 4:30 6:20 8:10 10:00

4 LUST CAUTION
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

5 ONE MORE CHANCE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 GAME PLAN
12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00

7 THE NANNY DIARIES
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

Midtown

1 SUPERBAD
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

2 ONE MORE CHANCE
11:25 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:25

3 BEOWULF
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

SNEAKPREVIEWS

november 19 and 20

Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA
ERMITA
METRO EAST
NOVALICHES
PIONEER

MICHAEL MANN
PETER BERG
UNDER FIRE. UNDER PRESSURE. OUT OF TIME.
JAMIE FOXX
CHRIS COOPER
JENNIFER GARNER
THEKINGDOM

REGULARShowing
november 28

MTRCB Rating: PG13

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 GAME PLAN
4:05 3:40 6:20 9:00

2 ONE MORE CHANCE
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00

4 BOOGEYMAN 2
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

5 SUPERBAD
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

6 LIONS FOR LAMBS
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 BEOWULF
10:50 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

8 THE NANNY DIARIES
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 SUPERBAD

PIONEER

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1 THE NANNY DIARIES
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 SUPERBAD
4 BEOWULF

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1 BEOWULF
2 GHOST SON
3 SUPERBAD
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HALLOWEEN
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
5 SUPERBAD

DASMARIÑAS

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2 BALLS of FURY
3 SUPERBAD
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF

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3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 SUPERBAD

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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 SUPERBAD
4 30 DAYS of NIGHT

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1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 RENDITION

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1 SUPERBAD
2 30 DAYS of NIGHT
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 UNREST
5 BALLS of FURY
6 BEOWULF

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1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 IndieSine: NUMBALIKDIWA
4 HALLOWEEN
5 SUPERBAD
6 UNREST

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5 RENDITION
6 BALLS of FURY

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3 THE GAME PLAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

starmall

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3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SUPER BAD
5

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1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 UNREST

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3 SUPER BAD
3 ONE MORE CHANCE

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☆ BEOWULF
☆
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1 (SDS) THE NANNY DAIRIES
2 (SDDS) BEOWULF
3 (DTS) LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 GOLD (DTS) ONE MORE CHANCE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) BOOGEYMAN - 2
6 GOLD (SDDS) GAME PLAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) BEOWULF
8 BALLS OF FURY/WE OWN THE NIGHT
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 SUPER BAD

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MARIKINA
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1 (DOLBY) SUPER BAD
2 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF

MARKETPLACE

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1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 LUST CAUTION
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

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1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 LUST CAUTION

Center Mall Cinema

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1 BEOWULF
2 SUPER BAD

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 (DTS ES) 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BEOWULF

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 STURDUST

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2 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
3 (DOLBY) THE NANNY DAIRIES
4 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE

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2 (DTS) ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
4

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1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

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2 SUPER BAD
3 (DOLBY) HALLOWEEN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 (DOLBY) SUPER BAD
4 (DTS) HALLOWEEN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) UNREST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 RENDITION
2 RESIDENT EVIL

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) RESIDENT EVIL
2 SISID
3 TUKSO
4 (DTS) RENDITION

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
2 XXX.CMM
3 (DTS) BEOWULF
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 SUPER BAD

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 SUPER BAD
2 HIGHLANDER
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGF WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Jake Gyllenhaal . . .

From page H1

"Jarhead." Now, you both have beards.

Peter and I are dating *(laughter)*. I can see the headlines now. Seriously, I look up to him. If he shaves his goatee, I'll also shave mine *(laughter)*.

Did you grow your beard for a role? Do you like wearing one?

Peter is merely doing it for vanity—he's really vain and full of himself *(laughter)*. We all know he's a bad actor, so he needs to cover himself up. I, on the other hand, am doing it for a role (in "Brothers"). I'm playing a character who spends time in jail in the first part of the movie.

It's gotten to a point of weirdness, because usually I grow my facial hair and it's okay. If it becomes itchy, I shave it. But now, I have to keep the beard for the movie even if I want to shave it!

Qualities

What qualities do you admire in Reese, as a person and an actress?

She can grow a mean beard, that's for sure *(laughter)*! I don't know if you've seen her beard—it's amazing! She's one of the best actresses of her generation—that's the truth. She's an incredible mother—she's devoted to her life and her work. But, every actor I look up to values his life over his work.

Will you comment on rumors that you are dating Reese?

No. Apparently, I am dating a lot of people, not only of the opposite sex *(laughter)*—it's very interesting and amusing.

The first time we interviewed you, you talked about not having enough sex...

Are you offering or what? *(Laughter)*

You talked freely during that interview. You have become a star since. So, has your sex life changed?

I've become an ascetic—I live in a cave now. That's why I am growing a beard. I have no sex, so I'm much more interesting!

The last five years

How has your life changed in the last five years?

It hasn't changed much. But, I have gained some perspective. You can go two ways: You can buy into it, or it nudges you a little bit. For me, it nudged me into where I wanted to be.

What have you learned about women from your mother and famous sister?

I grew up with a particular type of woman—both my sister and mother know what they believe in. I respect a woman's mind. I believe that women hold much of the power and energy in the world.

My respect for every woman I meet comes from them. But, anybody can open his eyes and spend some time with a woman and see how extraordinary—sex is *(laughing)*!

GYLLENHAAL. "I respect a woman's mind. I believe that women hold much of the power and energy in the world."

What advice have your parents given you on how to handle relationships?

This year marks the 30th wedding anniversary of my parents. A young man came up to my dad (Director Stephen Gyllenhaal) and asked him, "What's it like being married to the same woman for 30 years?" My dad answered, "She's not the same woman."

Very good answer.

Yes!

Good friend

Lance Armstrong (cycling champion) is a good friend of yours. And there are talks about you acting in a movie about the Tour de France.

That would be amazing! Lance and I are good friends. We have actually been on the Tour together. I rode sections of it in the Alps with Lance, which was amazing!

Did you make it?

Yes, I did *(laughing)*. You don't ride the Alps with Lance Armstrong and not make it. The movie's not definite yet. Matt Damon is developing it, so it's his movie at this point. But, I would love to play Lance and make a movie about cycling, because it's my favorite sport.

You're not a Republican. How is it like to have a friend like Lance who's a staunch Republican?

I don't discriminate. I have many friends who express different opinions. You can have some fun that way. Otherwise, you're just in a bubble!

Kitchen

In recent interviews, you talked about going into (TV chef) Mario Batali's kitchen to cook.

My best friend is a chef. The only time we could ever hang out was when I went in his kitchen, because he keeps such crazy hours! And, I do cook with Mario, occasionally.

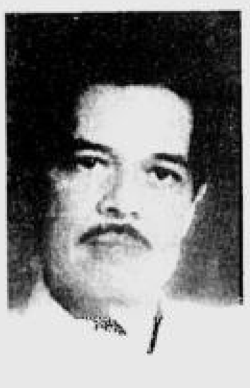
Other than cooking and seeing your lover, Peter, what do you do for fun?

I love that rumor *(laughter)*, it's so good. Put it out there!

E-mail rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com, and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

Toti Fuentes inspires again in comeback show

By Remy M. Umerez



FUENTES. Holds concert for a cause.

TOTI FUENTES fights stomach cancer with faith and music. He shares, "I feel death following me all the time, but there are more angels guarding me. I've been rushed to a 911 emergency so many times, and those angels always come to my rescue!"

Toti started playing the piano at age 6 under the tutelage of Sammy Casino and Mary Lee Willkom in Cagayan de Oro City. In 1969, he enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas' Conservatory of Music and studied under Prof. Bernardino Custodio.

Spanish singer

Toti was discovered by Don Juan Pedro while the Spanish singer from Barcelona was having dinner at Alba restaurant in Manila. Secretly, Toti's brother sent a note to Don Pedro asking him to allow Toti to sit in with the band for a couple of songs. After hearing the talented pianist, Pedro hired him on the spot!

Frustrated dancer

Toti's performance style involves physical gestures and fancy footwork. "I'm a frustrated dancer," he discloses.

In 1978, Fuentes migrated to the United States to find a new "source" of inspiration for his music. He recalls: "When I first heard Sergio Mendes' music in the '60s, I prayed that, someday, I could play with him. When I was about 7 years old, I would stand in front of a mirror and pretend that I was conducting a symphony orchestra!"

Years later, Toti got both of his childhood wishes. After his move to the United States, he performed with Hollywood celebrities like

TOTI/ H4

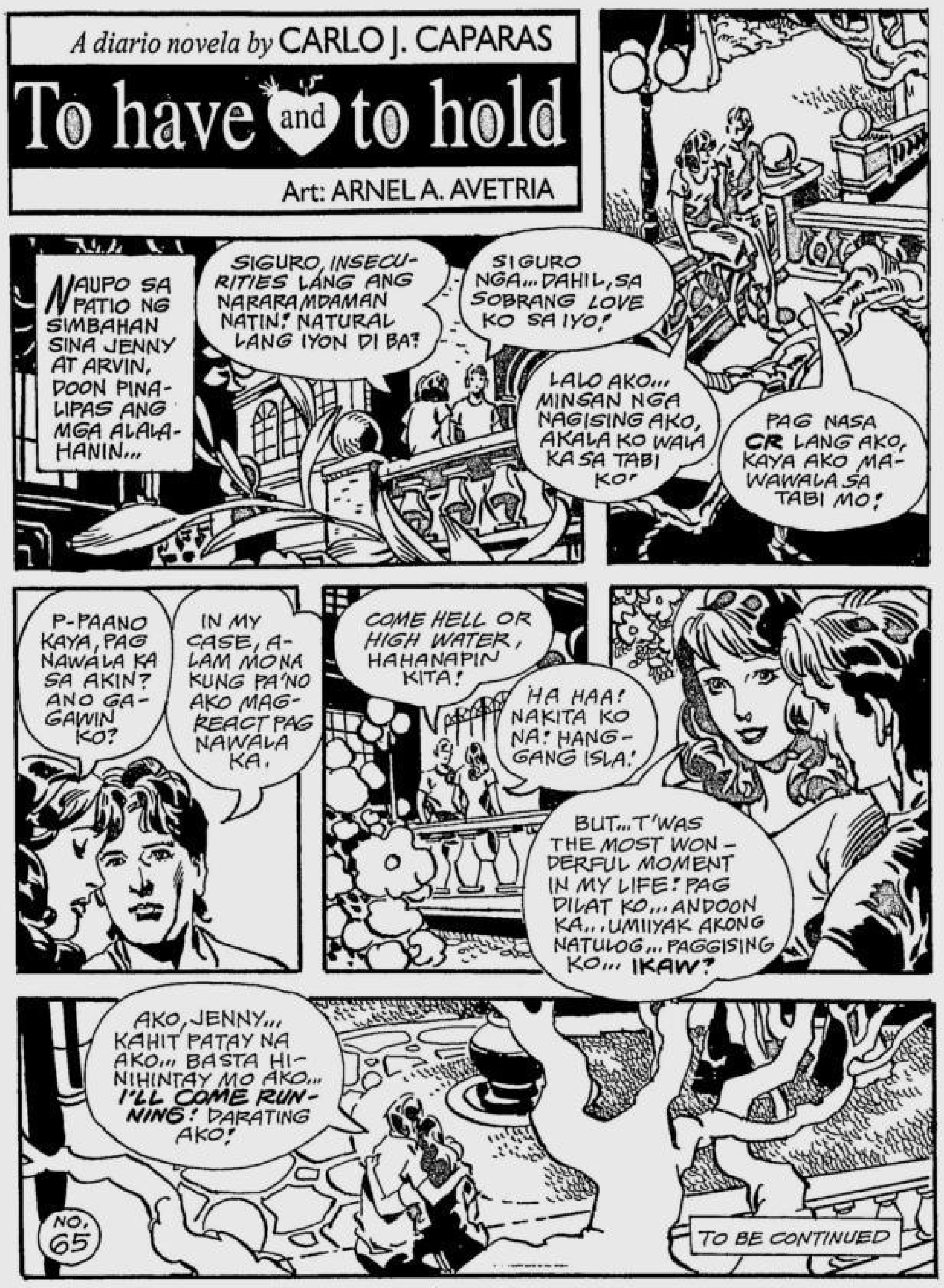
ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

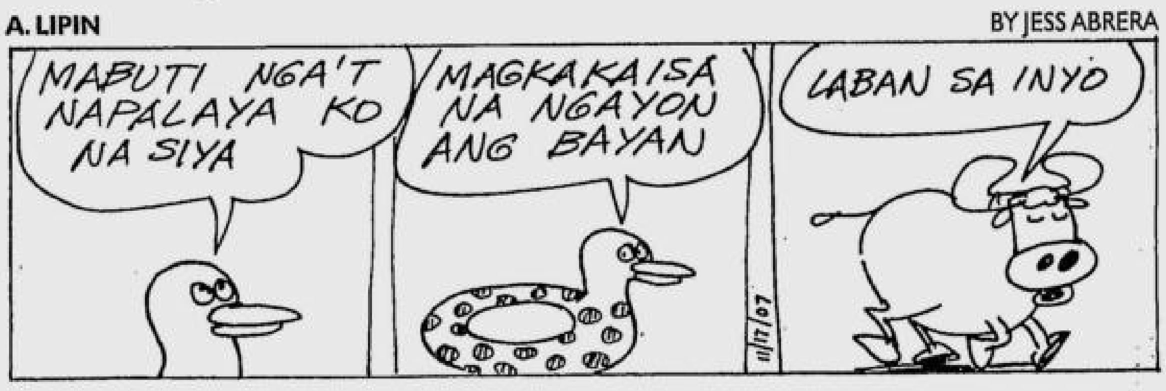
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


NAUPO SA PATIO NG SIMBAHAN SINA JENNY AT ARVIN, DOON PINALIPAS ANG MGA ALALAHANIN...
SIGURO, INSECURITIES LANG ANG NARARAMDAMAN NATIN! NATURAL LANG IYON DI BA?
SIGURO NGA... DAHIL, SA SOBRANG LOVE KO SA IYO!
LALO AKO... MINSAN NGA NAGISING AKO, AKALA KO WALA KA SA TABI KO!
PAG NASA CR LANG AKO, KAYA AKO MAWAWALA SA TABI MO!
P-PAANO KAYA, PAG NAWALA KA SA AKIN? ANO GAGAWIN KO?
IN MY CASE, ALAM MO NA KUNG PA'NO AKO MAG-REACT PAG NAWALA KA.
COME HELL OR HIGH WATER, HAHANAPIN KITA!
HA HAA! NAKITA KO NA! HANGGANG ISLA!
BUT... T'WAS THE MOST WONDERFUL MOMENT IN MY LIFE! PAG DILAT KO... ANDOON KA... UMIIYAK AKONG NATULOG... PAGGISING KO... IKAW?
AKO, JENNY... KAHIT PATAY NA AKO... BASTA HINIHINTAY MO AKO... I'LL COME RUNNING! DARATING AKO!
NO. 65
TO BE CONTINUED

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MABUTI NGA'T NAPALAYA KO NA SIYA
MAGKAKAISA NA NGAYON ANG BAYAN
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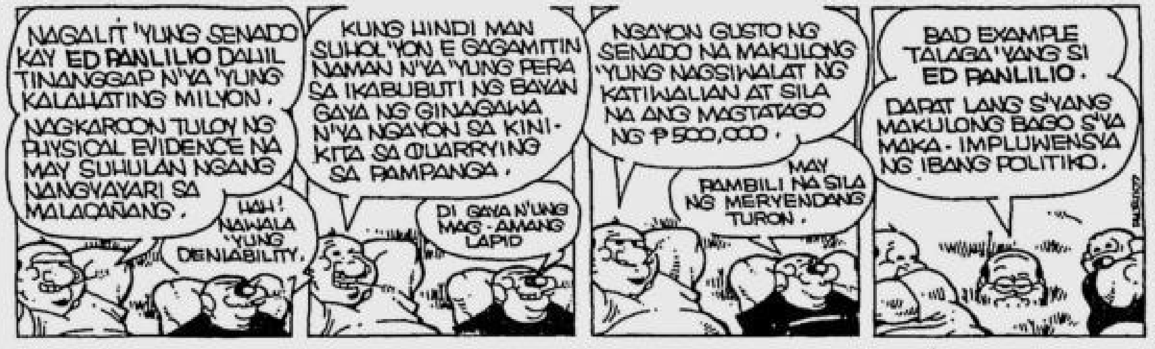
LABAN SA INYO

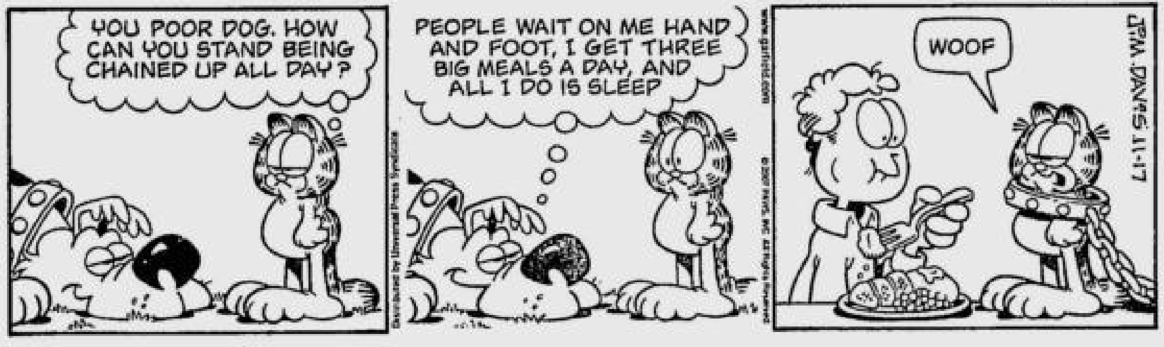
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAGALIT 'YUNG SENADO KAY ED PANLILIO DAHIL TINANGGAP N'YA 'YUNG KALAHATING MILYON. NAGKAROON TULOY NG PHYSICAL EVIDENCE NA MAY SUHULAN NGANG NANGYAYARI SA MALACAÑANG.
HAH! NAWALA 'YUNG DENIABILITY.
KUNG HINDI MAN SUHOL 'YON E GAGAMITIN NAMAN N'YA 'YUNG PERA SA IKABUBUTI NG BAYAN GAYA NG GINAGAWA N'YA NGAYON SA KINIKITA SA QUARRYING SA PAMPANGA.
DI GAYA N'UNG MAG-AMANG LAPID
NGAYON GUSTO NG SENADO NA MAKULONG 'YUNG NAGSIWALAT NG KATIWALIAN AT SILA NA ANG MAGTATAGO NG ₱500,000.
MAY PAMBILI NA SILA NG MERYENDANG TURON.
BAD EXAMPLE TALAGA 'YANG SI ED PANLILIO. DAPAT LANG S'YANG MAKULONG BAGO S'YA MAKA-IMPLUWENSYA NG IBANG POLITIKO.

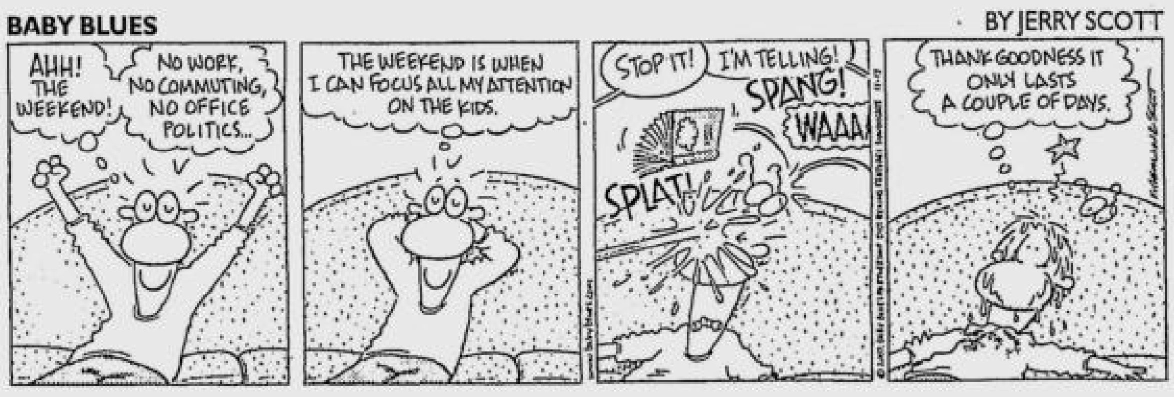
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


YOU POOR DOG. HOW CAN YOU STAND BEING CHAINED UP ALL DAY?
PEOPLE WAIT ON ME HAND AND FOOT, I GET THREE BIG MEALS A DAY, AND ALL I DO IS SLEEP
WOOF
JPM DAVIS 11-17

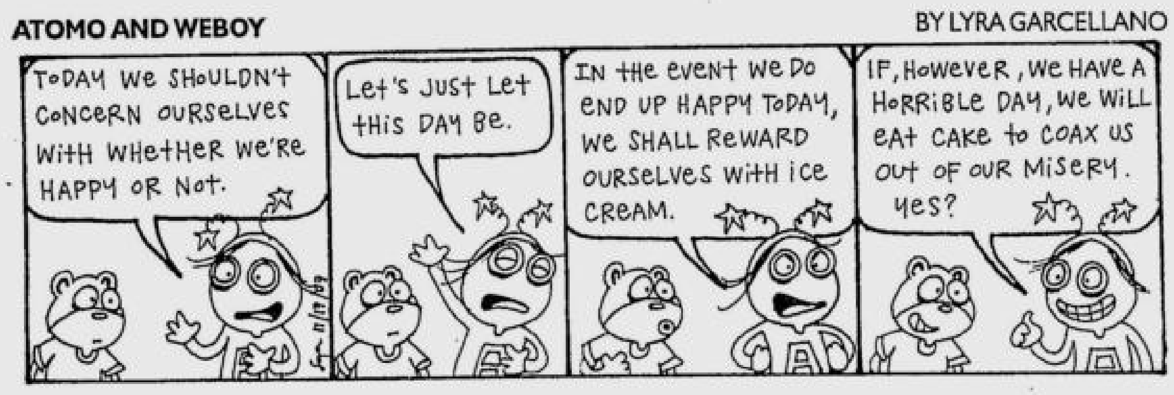
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


AHH! THE WEEKEND!
NO WORK, NO COMMUTING, NO OFFICE POLITICS...
THE WEEKEND IS WHEN I CAN FOCUS ALL MY ATTENTION ON THE KIDS.
STOP IT!
I'M TELLING!
SPANG!
WAAA!
SPLAT!
THANK GOODNESS IT ONLY LASTS A COUPLE OF DAYS.

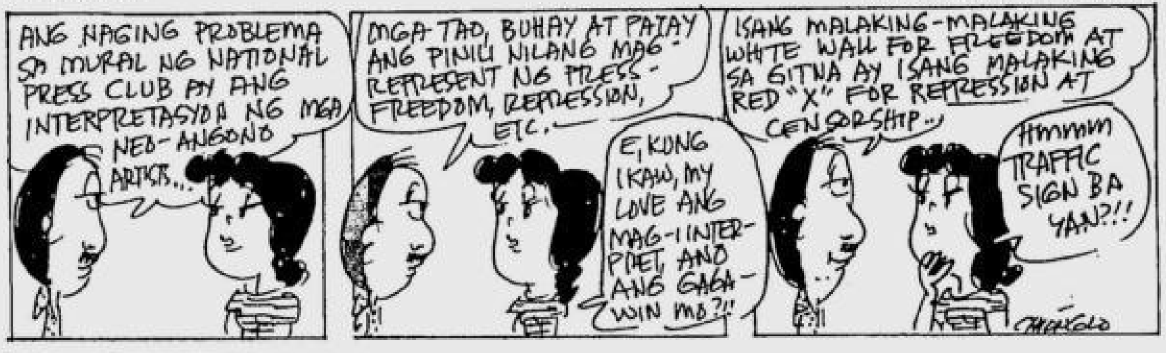
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


TODAY WE SHOULDN'T CONCERN OURSELVES WITH WHETHER WE'RE HAPPY OR NOT.
LET'S JUST LET THIS DAY BE.
IN THE EVENT WE DO END UP HAPPY TODAY, WE SHALL REWARD OURSELVES WITH ICE CREAM.
IF, HOWEVER, WE HAVE A HORRIBLE DAY, WE WILL EAT CAKE TO COAX US OUT OF OUR MISERY. YES?

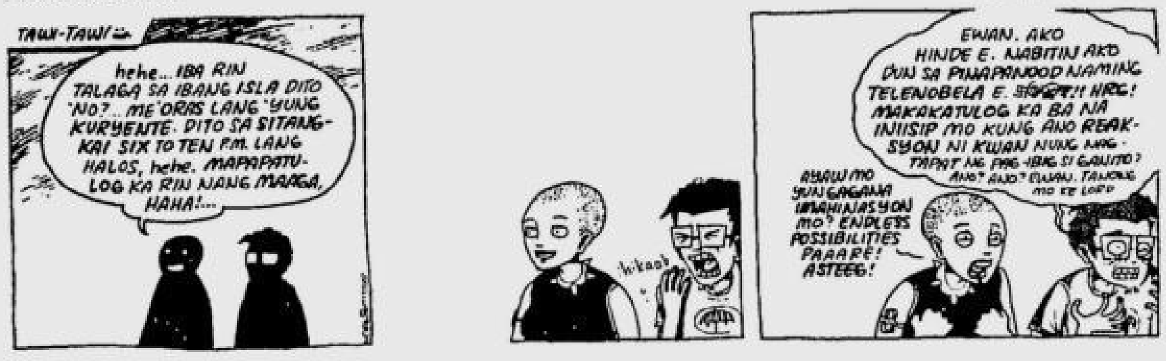
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG NAGING PROBLEMA SA MURAL NG NATIONAL PRESS CLUB AY ANG INTERPRETASYON NG MGA NEO-ANGONO ARTISTS...
MGA TAO, BUHAY AT PATAY ANG PINILI NILANG MAG-REPRESENT NG PRESS-FREEDOM, REPRESSION, ETC.
E, KUNG IKAW, MY LOVE ANG MAG-IINTERPRET, ANO ANG GAGAWIN MO?!!
ISANG MALAKING-MALAKING WHITE WALL FOR FREEDOM AT SA GITNA AY ISANG MALAKING RED "X" FOR REPRESSION AT CENSORSHIP...
HMMMM TRAFFIC SIGN BA YAN?!!
CHIONGLO

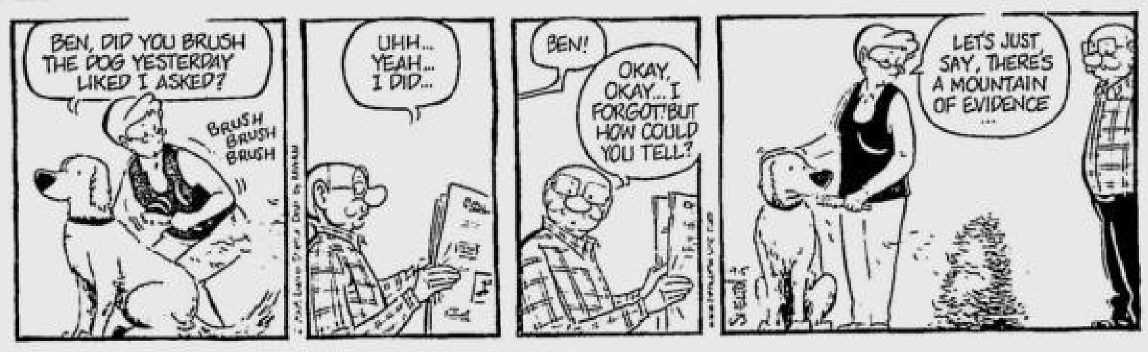
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

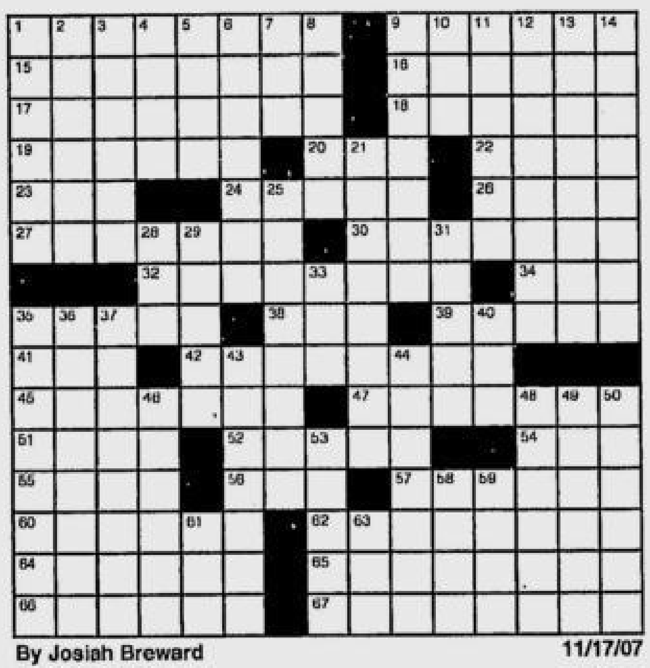

TAWI-TAWI
hehe... IBA RIN TALAGA SA IBANG ISLA DITO 'NO?... ME' ORAS LANG 'YUNG KURYENTE. DITO SA SITANGKAI SIX TO TEN P.M. LANG HALOS, hehe. MAPAPATULOG KA RIN NANG MAAGA, HAHA!...
hikaob
EWAN. AKO HINDE E. NABITIN AKO DUN SA PINAPANOOD NAMING TELENOBELA E. ARGH!! HRG! MAKAKATULOG KA BA NA INIISIP MO KUNG ANO REAKSYON NI KWAN NUNG NAGTAPAT NG PAG-IBIG SI GANITO? ANO? ANO? EWAN. TANONG MO KE LORD
AYAW MO YUN GAGANA IMAHINASYON MO? ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES PAAARE! ASTEEG!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, DID YOU BRUSH THE DOG YESTERDAY LIKED I ASKED?
BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH
UHH... YEAH... I DID...
BEN!
OKAY, OKAY... I FORGOT! BUT HOW COULD YOU TELL?
LET'S JUST SAY, THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF EVIDENCE
...

DAILY CROSSWORD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By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

11/17/07

ACROSS
1 Matter to be reckoned with
9 Sketcher's need
15 Stroke
16 Herbal drink
17 Sieve
18 "Broken Arrow" co-star Michael
19 Bee products
20 Deviled delight
22 Remsen and Levin
23 Large vase
24 Vanessa's nickname
26 Performer's engagements
27 Pool spin
30 Mom's mom
32 Progressing goalward
34 Tennis doubles?
35 Washer setting
38 Member of the fam.
39 Dangles
41 Summer in Tours
42 Make-believe medications?
45 Old-time laundry device
47 Phylicia and Ahmad
51 High: pref.
52 Watery ice
54 PGA peg
55 Nice nothing?
56 Latin X
57 Do cobbling
60 Short, pointed weapon
62 Newsman Harry
64 Wankel or diesel
65 Set going
66 London flophouses
67 With wooden walls

DOWN
1 16th-century helmet
2 Start of a recovery
3 Studying intently
4 October gem
5 Flutter about
6 Most on edge
7 Program file extension
8 Lew of "Dr. Kildare" movies
9 Tiered bric-a-brac shelves
10 __ Tin Tin
11 Select for a duty
12 Architect Eero or Eliel
13 Making furious
14 Appraise once again
21 The tickled
25 Enough to go around
28 __ Gatos, CA
29 Clumsy
31 __, Porthos and Aramis
33 Game rm.
35 Gave recompense to
36 Bologna tongue
37 Rainy-day savings
40 Gray shade
43 London sheens
44 Manama's country
46 Martina of tennis
48 Lacking a key
49 Erase
50 Blow a gasket
53 Open roughly
58 Art patron of Ferrara
59 Potter's need
61 Vane dir.
63 Former queen of Spain

Friday's Puzzle Solved

F	A	C	E	■	A	S	T	O	■	E	A	T	E	N
O	N	A	N	■	S	L	A	P	■	T	W	I	N	E
F	I	R	E	D	H	I	R	E	D	H	A	N	D	S
U	T	E	■	O	L	D	■	N	E	A	R	E	S	T
M	A	T	I	N	E	E	■	■	A	N	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	D	A	Y	■	A	P	R	■	S	A	L	E
A	S	C	O	T	■	P	R	A	M	■	■	M	A	X
W	H	O	L	E	P	I	E	C	E	O	F	P	I	E
L	O	L	■	■	L	E	N	T	■	B	U	S	T	S
S	W	A	M	■	E	R	A	■	P	J	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	D	D	■	■	F	I	E	S	T	A	S
A	V	E	R	A	G	E	■	I	N	C	■	I	R	E
L	I	T	T	L	E	G	R	E	A	T	L	A	K	E
U	N	T	I	E	■	G	I	L	T	■	A	R	I	D
M	E	A	N	Y	■	S	O	D	A	■	M	A	N	Y

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11/17/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a connector. You bring together opposing ideas, people and events. You are the glue that makes it happen. Privately, you have high ideals and strong morals. You will always work for your own security. You want your home to be dependable, secure and comfortable. You leave very little to chance. The year ahead will focus on partnerships.

Birthdate of: Martin Scorsese, director; Danny DeVito, actor; Lorne Michaels, producer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful day to have lofty discussions with others about politics, religion or different cultural beliefs. You're also interested in travel and news in the media.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): People notice you today. In some way, this could bring you favors, gifts, goodies or increased wealth. Don't be afraid to flash your smile!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You will adore learning anything new today. You're restless and in need of some stimulation or a bit of adventure. Talk to people from different backgrounds and different cultures. Learn something!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Secrets about someone else's income—especially the wealth of partners—might come out today. Stay in a generous frame of mind. After all, what goes around comes around. (Be wisely selfish.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today the Moon is opposite your sign. This means that you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others, especially close friends and partners. Just listen to others very carefully.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Cooperation with co-workers or colleagues can be productive today. Not only will you learn something, the efforts of any kind of group activity can benefit you today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a fun-loving, playful day. Get out and enjoy yourself. Be open to meeting people from different backgrounds. Flirt a little!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Any kind of group gathering at home or a gathering of family members can be pleasant and instructive today. You can expand your world by listening to others today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your optimism and enthusiasm attract people to you today. You're keen to learn, and just as keen to teach. Similarly, other people want to listen to you or tell you something!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day to discuss business and commerce. It's also a good day for shopping (less so in the evening). Working with others can be profitable for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): All Aquarians are born 50 years ahead of their time. Just remember: It's the lead dog who has the clearest view. Today you are particularly successful at talking to others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Work behind the scenes or alone today. This is how you will be most productive. (Secrets could be revealed to you.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		5						
	7		5			3	2	
	8		2					4
			3		6	4	5	
	1	6	8		9			
3					7		1	
	5	4			1		7	
						6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/17

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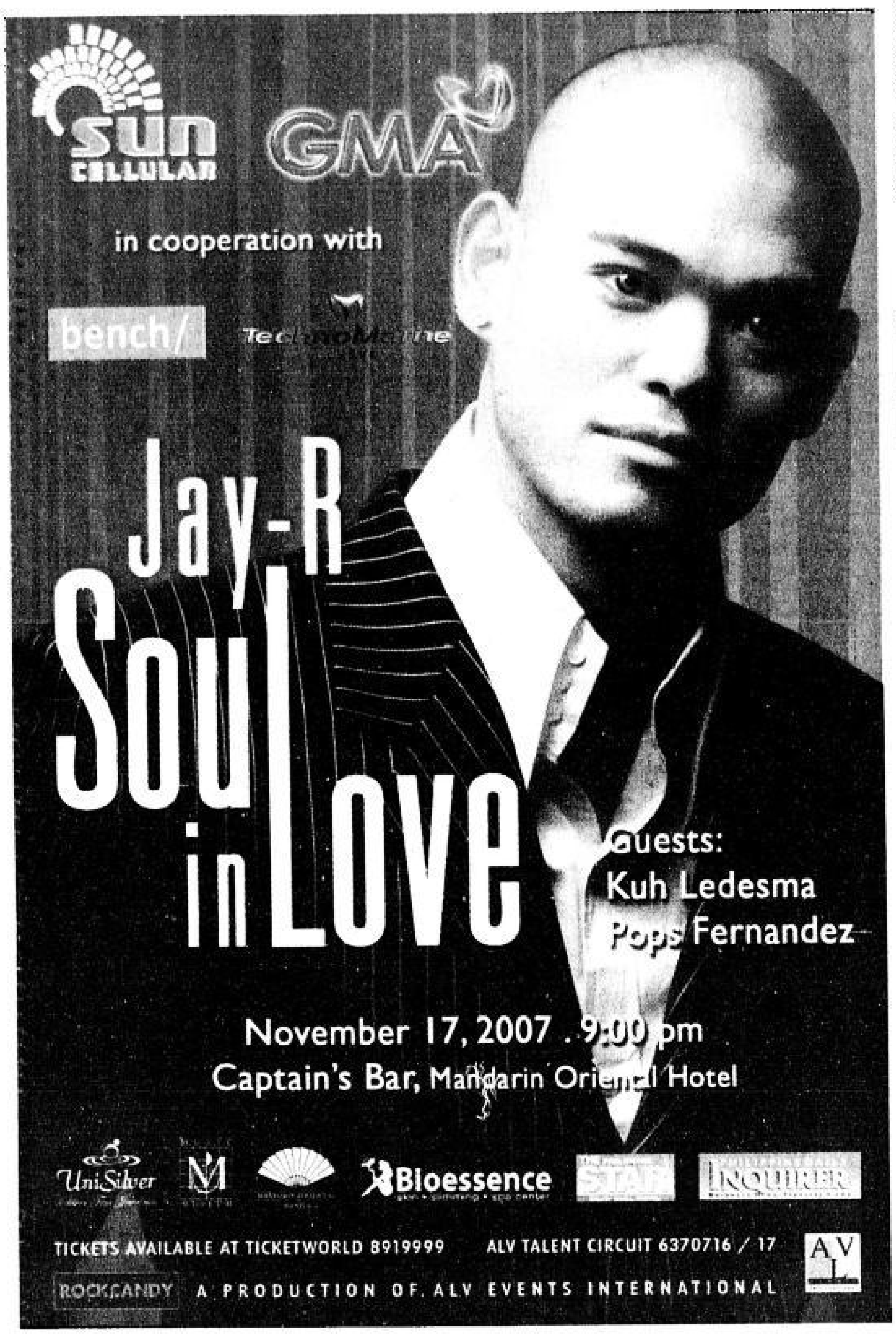
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	8	6	3	5	1	7	9	4
1	7	5	8	9	4	6	2	3
9	3	4	7	6	2	5	8	1
4	1	7	5	2	6	8	3	9
3	6	2	4	8	9	1	5	7
5	9	8	1	3	7	4	6	2
8	5	1	9	7	3	2	4	6
7	2	3	6	4	8	9	1	5
6	4	9	2	1	5	3	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★


SUN CELLULAR
GMA
in cooperation with
bench/
TechnoMarine
Jay-R
Soul in Love
Guests:
Kuh Ledesma
Pops Fernandez
November 17, 2007 . 9:00 pm
Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hotel
UniSilver
Bioessence
STAR
INQUIRER
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TICKETWORLD 8919999 ALV TALENT CIRCUIT 6370716 / 17
ROCKCANDY A PRODUCTION OF ALV EVENTS INTERNATIONAL
AVL

Apes make unlikely screen heroes

"KING KONG." The monstrous creature with a vulnerable heart is smitten by a beautiful maiden.

By Behn Cervantes

A BABY DESTINED TO BE LORD Greystoke survives a plane crash in the African wilderness and is raised by apes. Eventually, he acquires simian dexterity and courage and becomes Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle, before he interacts with human beings again.

The Ape Man enjoys the best of both worlds. When Hollywood adapted his adventures to the big screen, his story led to a highly profitable series topbilled by a string of he-men.

One of the most successful actors to play Tarzan was Olympic swimming champ, Johnny Weismuller, who provided fans with exciting swimming and swinging scenes, and the best jungle yell of all—the Tarzans who came after him, like Lex Barker, Gordon Scott, Jock Mahoney and Ron Ely, had to "copy" his yell!

Mischievous monkey

In the story, Tarzan is joined by Jane, who teaches him English while instructing him on how to properly conduct himself as a Lord. Soon, they are joined by a lad, appropriately christened Boy, and a clever but mischievous monkey named Cheetah.

Cheetah proved so appealing that, in time, producers thought of creating a giant ape called King Kong. However, while Cheetah was an amusing little comic imp, King Kong was a tragic figure out of sync with time and progress.

The giant ape is captured in his natural abode and made a laughable exhibit by profit-motivated human beings. Only a blonde beauty shows him sympathy and understanding.

To nobody's surprise, the monstrous ape with a vulnerable heart is soon smitten by the beautiful maiden. The villains turn out to be the trespassing humans who intrude upon King Kong's quiet albeit primitive existence.

"MIGHTY JOE YOUNG." Starred Charlize Theron in its 1998 incarnation.

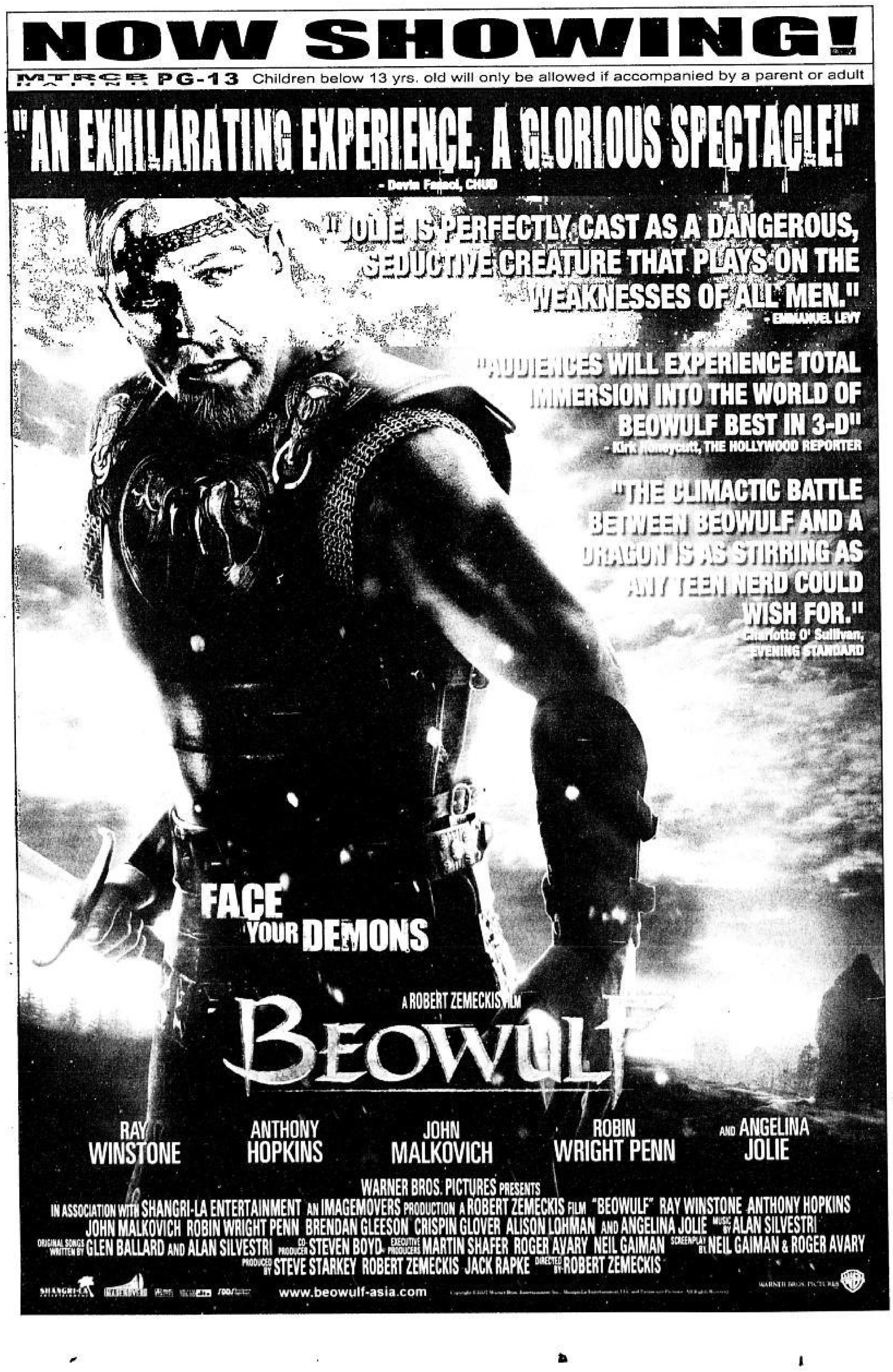
Kong meets his doom when he is shot off the top of the Empire State Building, a symbol of man's technological progress. This simple story, spiced with love, action and adventure, captured viewers' imagination. To this day, Fay Wray is remembered as Kong's first captive damsel.

Big-budget spectacles

Indeed, apes make unlikely screen heroes. King Kong was so appealing that new versions were again produced recently. Those remakes were big-budget spectacles that updated the story's theme for today's audiences. Kong proved so sympathetic that another ape named Joe Young was created for the silver screen.

"Mighty Joe Young" likewise chronicles the ape's capture and his cruel transfer to the big city. Like Kong, Joe falls in love with a girl, played in the 1949 version by sex kitten, Terry Moore. Interestingly, the movie was also directed by Ernest B. Schoedsack, who helmed the original "King Kong."

The story of Joe Young was revived in 1998, starring Charlize Theron, who, soon after, won a Best Actress Oscar for her performance in the film, "Monster."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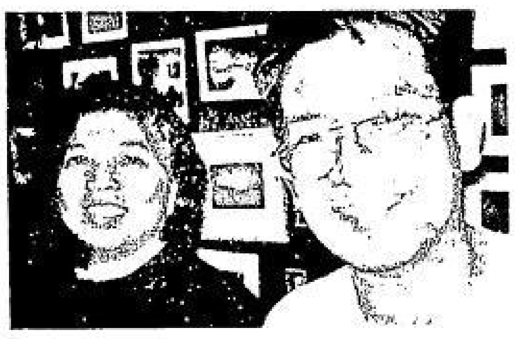
"THE CLIMACTIC BATTLE BETWEEN BEOWULF AND A DRAGON IS AS STIRRING AS ANY TEEN NERD COULD WISH FOR." Charlotte O' Sullivan, EVENING STANDARD
FACE YOUR DEMONS
A ROBERT ZEMECKIS FILM
BEOWULF
RAY WINSTONE ANTHONY HOPKINS JOHN MALKOVICH ROBIN WRIGHT PENN AND ANGELINA JOLIE
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH SHANGRI-LA ENTERTAINMENT AN IMAGEMOVERS PRODUCTION A ROBERT ZEMECKIS FILM "BEOWULF" RAY WINSTONE ANTHONY HOPKINS JOHN MALKOVICH ROBIN WRIGHT PENN BRENDAN GLEESON CRISPIN GLOVER ALISON LOHMAN AND ANGELINA JOLIE MUSIC BY ALAN SILVESTRI ORIGINAL SONGS WRITTEN BY GLEN BALLARD AND ALAN SILVESTRI CO-PRODUCER STEVEN BOYD EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARTIN SHAFER ROGER AVARY NEIL GAIMAN SCREENPLAY BY NEIL GAIMAN & ROGER AVARY PRODUCED BY STEVE STARKEY ROBERT ZEMECKIS JACK RAPKE DIRECTED BY ROBERT ZEMECKIS
www.beowulf-asia.com
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Film fest showcases local animators

By Rica Arevalo



AVIC Ilagan and Ricky Orellana of the Animation Council of the Philippines Inc.

THE ANIMATION Council of the Philippines Inc. (ACPI) is cooking up an exciting, all-Filipino competition and showcase for about a hundred animation shorts in the upcoming "Animahenasyon 2007 Pinoy Animation Festival" from Nov. 21 to 27 at Robinsons Galleria's IndieSine.

We have many success stories of Filipino animation artists making it big in Hollywood studios like Pixar, Dreamworks and Disney. We sat down with ACPI executive director Avic Ilagan and festival director Ricky Orellana to talk about their noble project.

Creative outlet

Ilagan observes: "Filipinos are skilled, so at some point, they look for a creative outlet. When you outsource projects, you merely follow what's asked of you. We want to encourage animators to have a say in the development of a concept or story to enhance and prove their creativity—that's why 'Animahenasyon' is an all-Filipino festival."

"This is the Olympics of *Pinoy* animation," Orellana agrees. "This is the only local competition organized especially for animation. Since I attended both the Hiroshima and Annecy film fests, I was able to observe the nitty-gritty details of organizing a festival. We hope 'Animahenasyon' becomes successful!"

The Annecy International Animated Film Festival (Festival du Film d'Animation du Annecy) and the Hiroshima International Animation Film Festival are two of the world's havens for animators to showcase their works.

In 1998, my short film was invited for exhibition in Hiroshima. It was interesting to watch only animated films for one week. And the highlight for filmmakers was not the screening of our films, but the bond that developed among animators and filmmakers.

The Japanese organizers were so hospitable that they brought us on a cruise with international animators, and organized a beach party with stop-motion animation pioneer, Ray Harryhausen, in attendance.

In "Animahenasyon," aside from film screenings, there will be a two-day conference in which successful Filipino animators like Pixar's Ronnie del Carmen will talk about story development and animation production.

The festival received more than 150 entries from all over the country. Call 438-2983 loc. 150 or151, or e-mail animation-council@gmail.com.

Promising entries

Promising entries from fresh, young talents include Kristian "Titay" Rebueno's "Red Balloon," Kenny Lyn Tai's "Ulan," Ramon del Prado's "I Am the Superhero," Nelson "Blog" Caliguia Jr.'s "Inday Wanda" and Jeff Capili's "Malaya."

Moreover, the works of veteran animators like Roxlee's "Left Turn," Ellen Ramos' "En El Baño Con Frida," and Juan Alcazaren's "Sweet Cheeks" will also be featured.

Toti Fuentes . . .

From page H2

Andy Williams, La Toya Jackson, Natalie Cole, Aretha Franklin, the Platters and the Lettermen.

Toti performed with Anna Fegi in the concert, "Perfect Pair," at Merks Bar Bistro in Greenbelt last Nov. 15, and in "The Scent of Home" at Mandarin Oriental's Captain's Bar on Nov. 22. It was Toti who introduced the curly-haired songstress as a solo artist to Manila audiences.

Fegi has since made a name for herself in the music scene. She recently finished her year-long stint playing the coveted role of Nala in "The Lion King" at Disneyland Hong Kong.

SATURDAY *Special*

NOW SHOWING

Insight, instinct drive

chemistry-fueled romantic drama

By Rito P. Asilo

"One More Chance"

D: Cathy Garcia-Molina
S: John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay and Maja Salvador

IN CATHY GARCIA-MOLINA'S LATEST film, "One More Chance," the filmmaker examines romantic relationships with far less crowd-pleasing tricks than are usual in Star Cinema's rom-com vehicles. As a result, she imbues the John Lloyd Cruz-Bea Alonzo starrer with a deeper and more cohesive perspective.

For the most part, Molina succeeds in dissecting the unusual love story of Popoy (Cruz), and Basha (Alonzo), lovers who find themselves drifting apart after five years. Interestingly, the lovers don't really fall out of love—they merely find themselves unable to cope with the changes that come with adulthood and maturity.

CRUZ AND ALONZO. Don't just go through the motions—they really go for the thespic jugular.

As Basha struggles to understand the growing resentment she feels for Popoy's bossy demeanor, the latter tightens his domineering hold over his indecisive, subservient girlfriend as he begins to contemplate a life of wedded bliss.

Basha eventually finds her own voice—a successful career, artistic growth, financial security, etc.—*after* she gathers enough courage to break up with Popoy, who falls apart when she breaks the news to him.

But, when Basha sees Popoy with his new girlfriend, Trisha (Maja Salvador), she realizes that she still loves him! What's a girl to do to make amends?

INSIGHT/12

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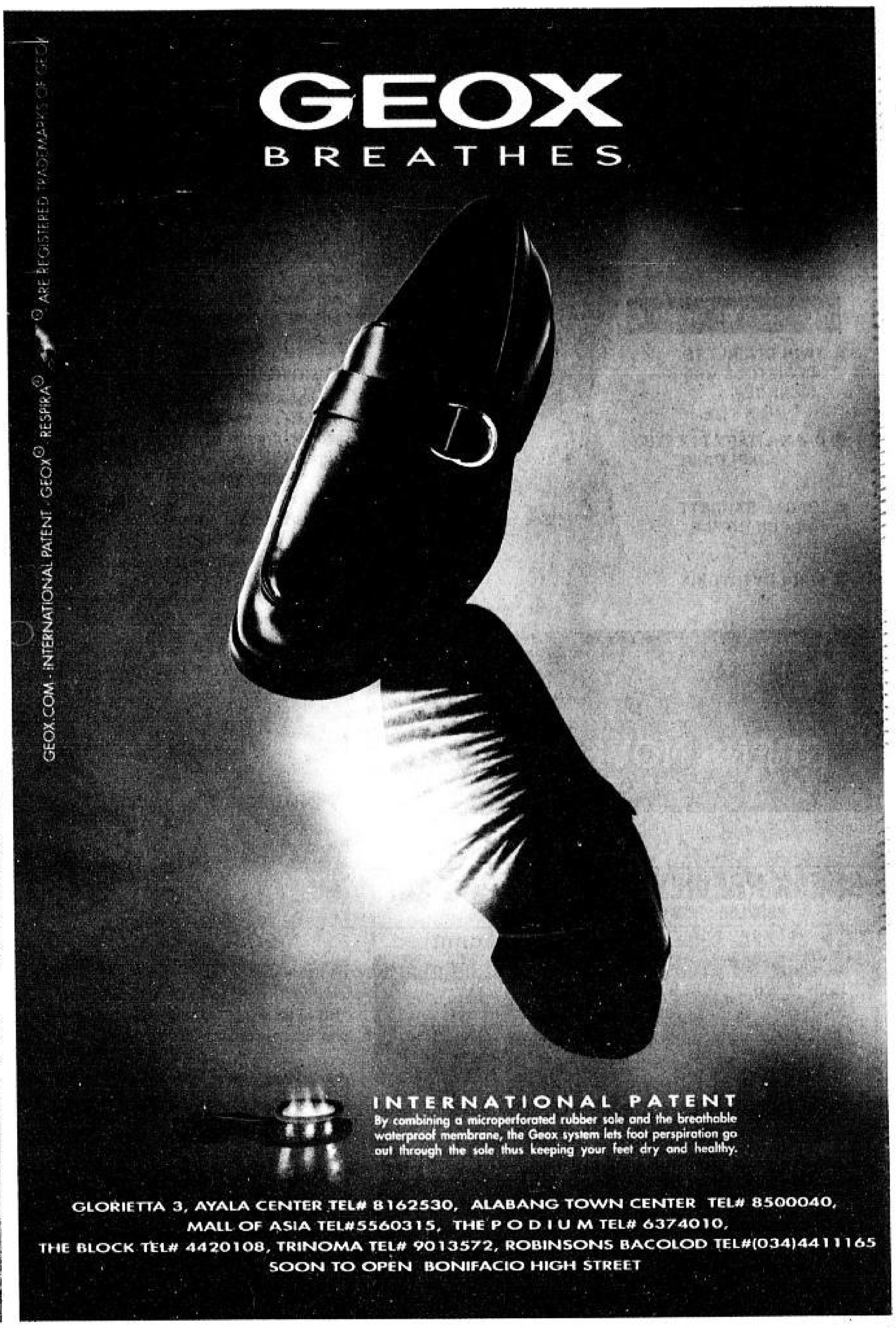
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Goldie Hawn supports programs promoting culture, human rights

NEW YORK—GOLDIE HAWN recently expressed support for two film programs aimed at showcasing amateur and professional films as a way to promote cultural understanding and uphold human rights.

The Academy Award winner met with organizers of Pangea Day, a one-day event which is named after what scientists believe was the giant land mass that encompassed all of today's continents.

HAWN. Wants to help children deal with stress.

Positive change

Organizers of the program, scheduled for May 10 next year, will present amateur and professional films in an effort that they hope will "encourage humanity and catalyze positive change."

"This threads together commonality—it brings together something in a deeply polarized world," Hawn said in an interview with the Associated Press. She said she was drawn to Pangea Day "because everyone has a story, and film is a very emotional medium" to tell it.

Plans for the program include linking screening venues in New York, Cairo, London, Ramallah, Rio de Janeiro, Tel Aviv, India and Rwanda, for television and Internet broadcasts.

"Working in film, you learn that the goal is to tell pertinent stories," Hawn shared. She noted that the project also appealed to her because of the power of filmmaking, which gives others a forum in which they can relay their stories and possibly touch lives.

Pangea Day was created by documentary filmmaker, Jehane Noujaim, after she won the TED Prize that provided $1 million and access to top thinkers in technology, entertainment and the arts to aid projects with global ambitions.

Award

The award, whose winners include former President Bill Clinton and Harvard biologist E.O. Wilson, grants recipients one wish to change the world.

Noujaim, who founded Pangea Day, is best known as director of "Control Room," a film which went behind the scenes at the pan-Arab satellite channel, al-Jazeera—an independent station that has garnered both strong praise and criticism for its coverage of events in the Middle East.

Along with Hawn, others who have thrown support behind the project include Rwandan President Paul Kagame, who views it as an opportunity to break the singular association people have with the 1994 Rwandan genocide, Pangea organizers disclosed.

Hawn, who won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in the 1969 movie, "Cactus Flower," said that plans were on hold for a movie that would have scenes filmed in India.

She said "Ashes to Ashes," a movie she wrote about a New Yorker who travels to India to bury her husband's ashes, was "still being financed," and that a deal had not yet been signed.

Curriculum

But, she said she remains busy with her other projects, including her work for The Hawn Foundation, whose stated mission is to establish a curriculum and pilot programs to help children understand their own thoughts and feelings, and respond in healthy and responsible ways.

"One of the problems children have today is stress," Hawn said. "I sat down and wondered: 'What can we do?'" *AP*

'Art of Life'

"RICEFIELD IN BUTUAN." One of Navasero's photographs for her "Earth" series.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

FIVE PHOTOGRAPHERS, RECIPIENTS OF the Panasonic Lumix digital camera with Leica lens, are involved in Panasonic Philippines' "Art of Life' photo exhibit, currently on view at the second floor of the LRI Design Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia st., Bel-Air II, Makati City. The show runs until Nov. 26.

For two days, Wig Tysman shot in a flower shop to capture "Water" on roses and came up with Hallmark-type images. "Metal" was the subject assigned to Jeanne Young, who, like me, is a graduate of Advertising Photography at Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara, California. She also came up with dazzling photos.

For his part, Raffy Paredes worked with low-intensity lighting to capture "Fire." He photographed fire-eating performers, lighted candles on birthday cakes, and smokers.

Subject matter

Travel photographer George Tapan captured stunning scenes—a wooden bridge, mist-filled trees on a mountain, etc.—in Bohol and other places in the country for his subject matter, "Wood."

I tackled "Earth" in pictures culled from commissioned works that brought me to a rice field in Butuan, the Liloan river in the northern part of Cebu, and to Batanes' Boulder Beach and its volcanic andesite stones.

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* * *

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Insight . . .

From page 11

The movie initially falters by taking an unconventional expositional style that confounds more than it clarifies—it utilizes a cheeky, comedic style to introduce the story's dual narrative strands (Popoy's and Basha's).

Unfortunately, the storytelling tack then becomes protracted and soon feels languorous and self-indulgent. Moreover, for a Star Cinema production, the film's photography is surprisingly not as polished.

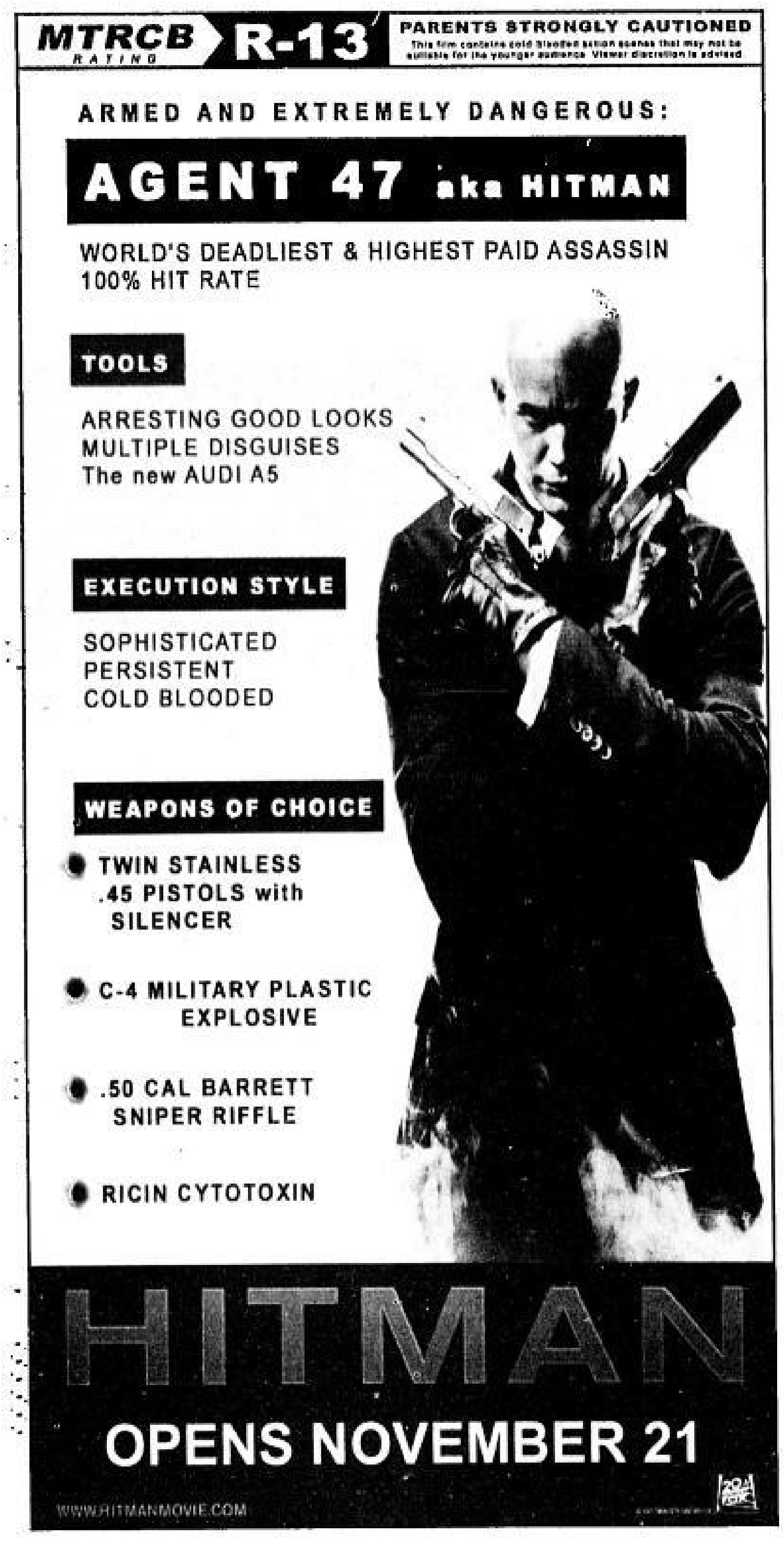
However, when Molina finally decides to take her subject matter seriously, we see the subtext-coated directorial insight that is initially cluttered by her attempt to use wit and the requisite sight gags to generate humor and light-hearted fun.

The production's best assets are its leads and its talented supporting cast. It's not hard to be drawn to Cruz and Alonzo's characters because the talented pair doesn't just go through the motions—they really go for the thespic jugular! You see the consistency of the characters' respective journeys, so choosing a side doesn't come easy for the engaged viewer. After all, isn't life a series of hard decisions and ambiguous choices?

Cruz knows how to make viewers empathize with him, but so does the lovely Alonzo, who looks lovelier without the unwanted fat. Their undeniable chemistry, dramatic instinct and timing fuel Molina's intelligent romantic drama. Giving Cruz and Alonzo ample support are Derek Ramsay and Dimples Romana, who come up with above-par performances as Popoy and Basha's friends and confidantes.

There is, however, one lovely actress who almost runs away with the movie: Maja Salvador, who uses every second of her limited screen time to provide the necessary conflict between the two leading characters. Her break-up scene (with Cruz) alone demonstrates the young actress' depth and intelligence—an award-worthy, head-turning stealing turn, indeed! We can't wait to see her in more challenging roles!

With Cruz, Alonzo and Salvador's help, Molina's film deftly examines the anatomy and psychology of a break-up and reminds viewers that pain and failure are sometimes integral to growing up. As Ramsay's character advises, "It takes grown-ups to make relationships work!"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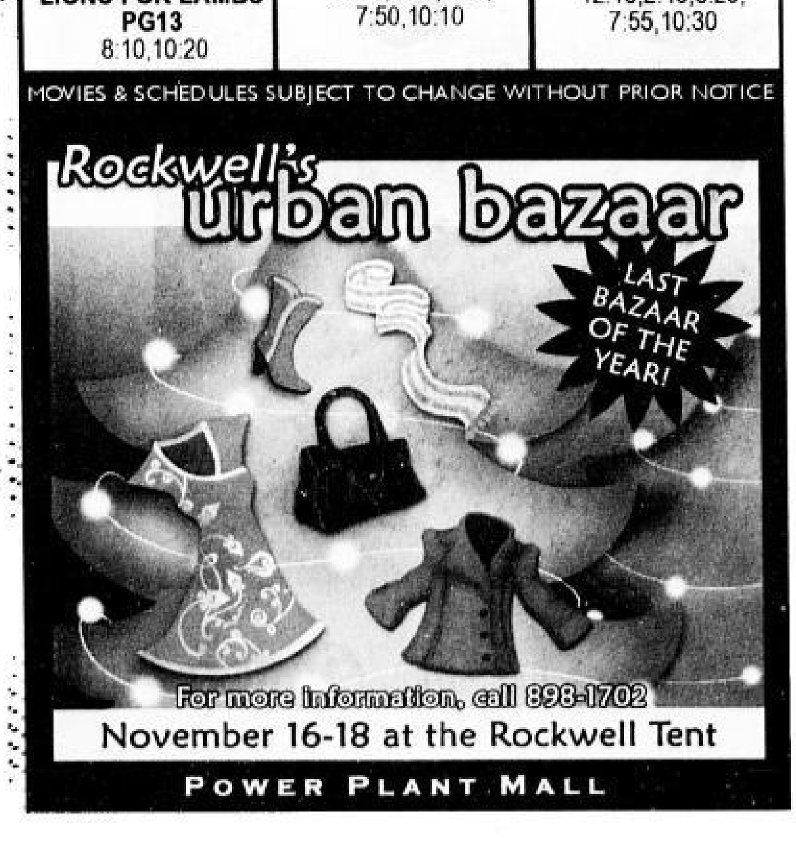
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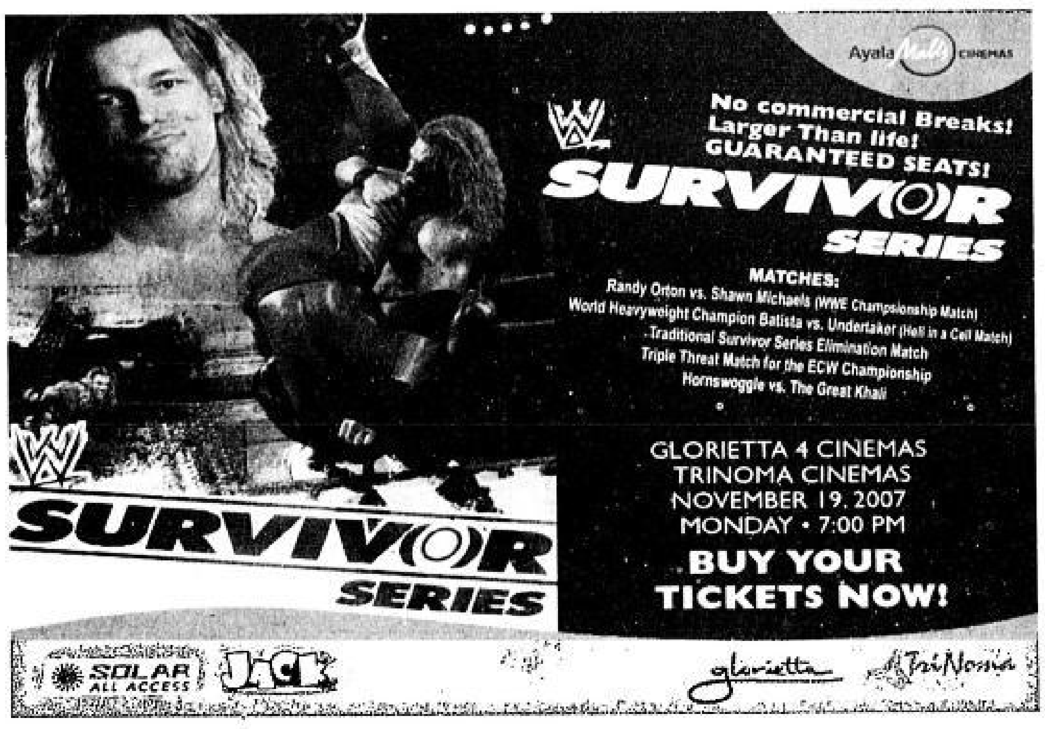
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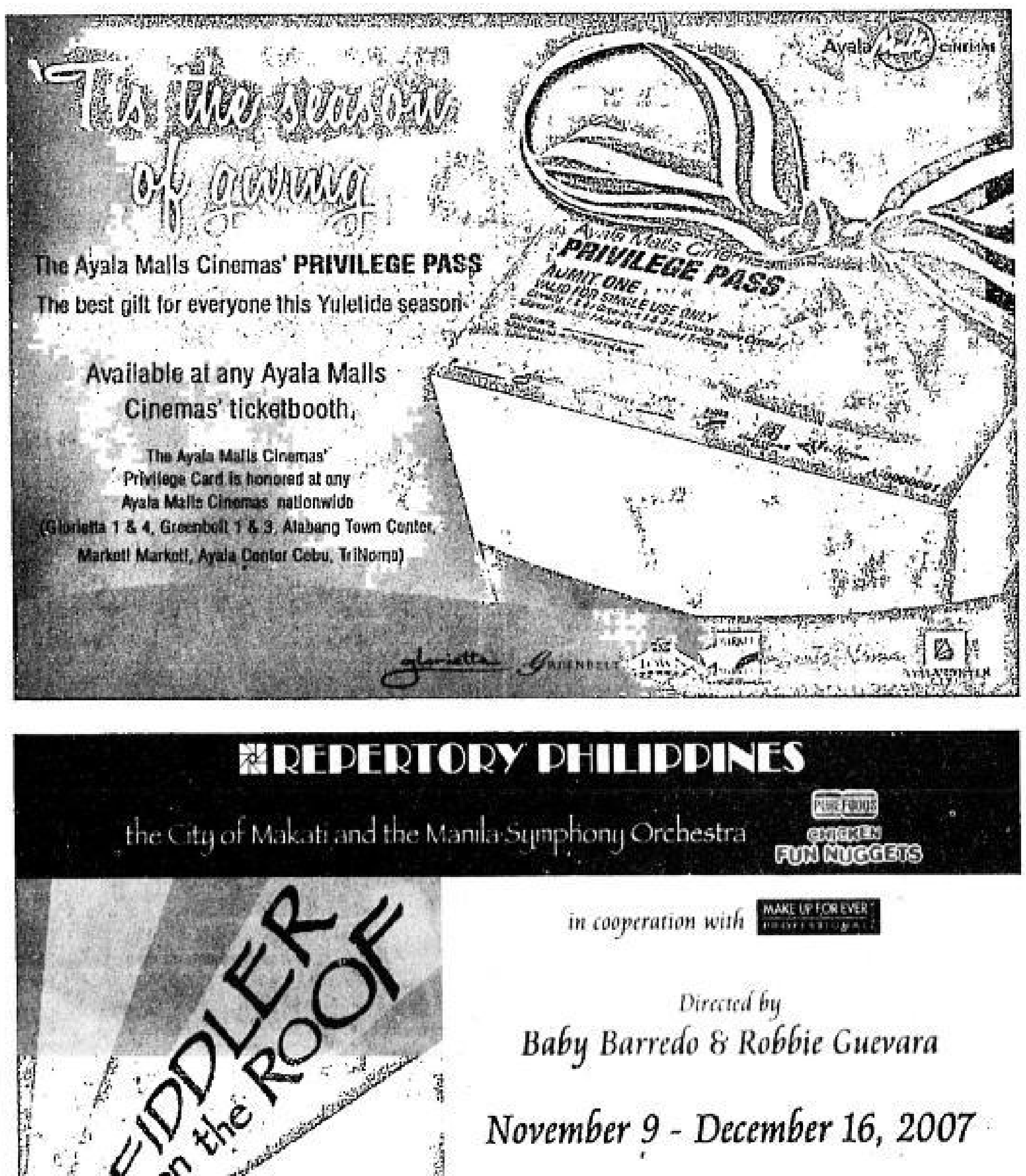
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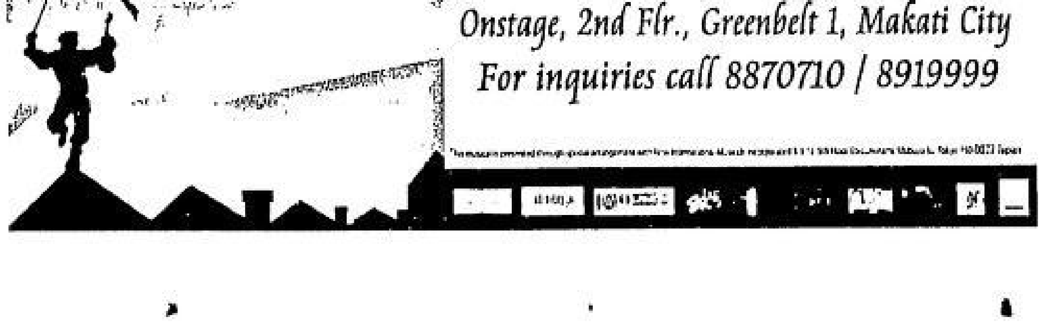
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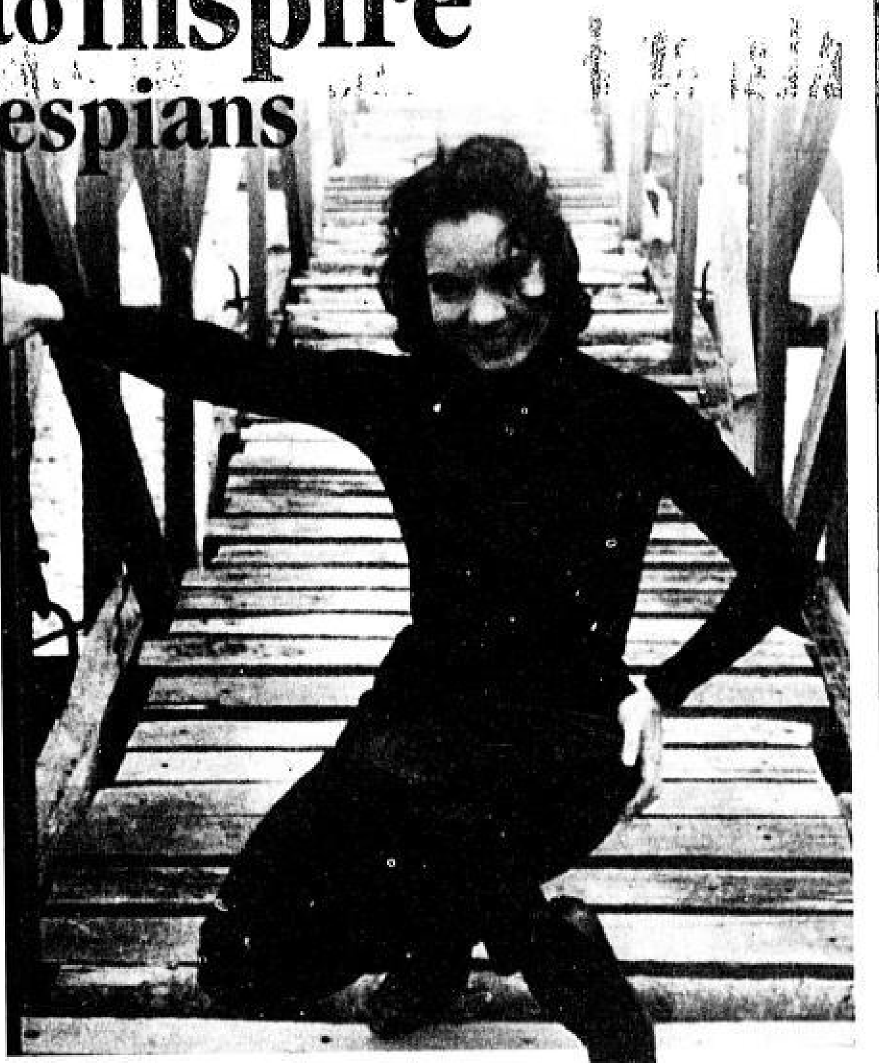
Tita Muñoz's luminous artistry continues to inspire younger thespians

By Nestor U. Torre



THE MANY moods of the lovely actress (above and below).

BORN AUG. 14, 1925, TITA Muñoz grew up into a beautiful, sensitive and talented young woman who made a name for herself in various capacities in the performing arts and media.

Her exceptional beauty was complimented by a distinctive speaking voice and an artistic intelligence that enabled her to excel in different fields.

Radio announcer

She started in entertainment as a radio announcer on dzBB. She did so well that she was quickly promoted to production manager of dzBC, then dzAQ—the first woman in Manila to hold the post.

She also pioneered on television as one of the then new medium's first writers, producers and program hosts, on dzAQ-TV. Eventually, she became the production manager of the first government TV station, Channel 10.

But, it was in the field of acting that Tita truly came into her own. In the theater, her luminous and insightful performances in plays like "The Cocktail Party," "Suddenly Last Summer," "Lysistrata," "Sorry, Wrong Number," "Skin of Our Teeth," "The Blood of God," and works by Shakespeare made her the toast of the town.

THE THEATER icon was also a pioneering radio-TV talent.

National Artist Rolando Tinio regarded Tita as his artistic muse, and directed her in a number of memorable productions, including two plays that he wrote for her, "Claudia and Her Mother," and "It's April, What Are We Doing Here?"

Outstanding work

Tita also did outstanding work as a film actress, starring in memorable films like "Flight of the Sparrow" and "Run with the Devil," as well as appearing in some international productions.

In Filipino films, her notable portrayals were in movies like "Lilet," "Stardoom," "Pahiram ng Isang Umaga," "Madrasta," "Tulisang Pugot," "Kahit Wala Ka Na sa Akin" and "Texas."

Tita was even busier on television, where her frequent portrayals on the acclaimed anthology drama, "Balintataw," were deeply appreciated by viewers. She also performed in TV series like "Victoria Hills" and "Sana Ikaw Na Nga."

Portrayals

In all of her theater, TV and film portrayals, Tita set the highest thespic standards, prompting the best directors to cast her in their productions. Aside from Rolando Tinio, they included National Artists Gerardo de Leon, Lamberto V. Avellana, Lino Brocka and Eddie Romero.

Now in her 80s, Tita Muñoz continues to inspire younger thespians with the celebrated excellence of her many multimedia portrayals, her abiding love for the performing arts—and her luminous artistry!

TITA (left, with her family) was a beauty even as a young girl.

Timberlake helps Duran Duran get 'sexy back'

DURAN DURAN. Have released their 13th studio album, "Red Carpet Massacre."

NEW YORK—MORE THAN 25 years after the release of its first album, '80s pop group, Duran Duran, is still learning new tricks—this time, from US hip-hop mogul, Timbaland, and pop sensation, Justin Timberlake.

Simon LeBon, Nick Rhodes, John Taylor and Roger Taylor joined forces with the US stars for their 13th album, "Red Carpet Massacre."

"What they taught us was that you had to be quick, and that first ideas are often the best ones. We have made quite a few albums that went through long, tortuous processes," drummer Roger Taylor told Reuters.

First single

Former Mouseketeer Timberlake produced and sang on the first single, "Falling Down," while Timothy "Timbaland" Mosley produced and is featured on three tracks. Another eight songs were produced by Duran Duran and Nate "Danja" Hills, who also worked with Britney Spears on her latest album.

"It's a real collaboration. We haven't really written with that many artists before," said keyboardist Rhodes. Lead singer Simon LeBon said the band—with each member in his 40s, and with more than 85 million albums sold—is always looking ahead. He says that the group is aware of new music.

"We tend to look at other artists who are making great records now, of which Timbaland and Timberlake have been at the forefront over the past few years," he mused. "As soon as we got the opportunity to work with them, it was like 'Yes, who wouldn't?'"

Not only has Duran Duran been taking notes, so has Timberlake—who was born the same year the boys of Duran Duran released their first album—says a Billboard review of "Falling Down." "Duran Duran has remained relevant enough without any outside help through the years. Is this kid going to contemporize the band into an object of ridicule?," it asked.

Versatility

"Thankfully, 'Falling' demonstrates surprising versatility from Timberlake. The song is true to Duran Duran's beloved melodic imprint, demonstrating that Timberlake is the one who's learning new tricks here," Billboard added.

Nylon magazine described the album as Duran Duran getting its "sexy back" in a play on the title of one of Timberlake's hit singles.

The group initially recorded an album titled "Reportage" as a follow-up to 2004's "Astronaut," which was the first album by all the original members—the current quartet *plus* Andy Taylor—since 1983.

Relationship

Taylor again decided to leave the band last year. LeBon jokingly described the split as "dodgy stuff," while Rhodes more diplomatically explained: "We drifted apart. It was a relationship that didn't work anymore. He wanted something different."

Taylor's departure turned out to be a catalyst for working with Timbaland, Timberlake and Hills that led to recording a new album, which the band said was also heavily influenced by "the tempo of modern life."

But, older fans need not worry about the new collaboration: Rhodes reiterated, "It's very much a Duran Duran album!" *Reuters*

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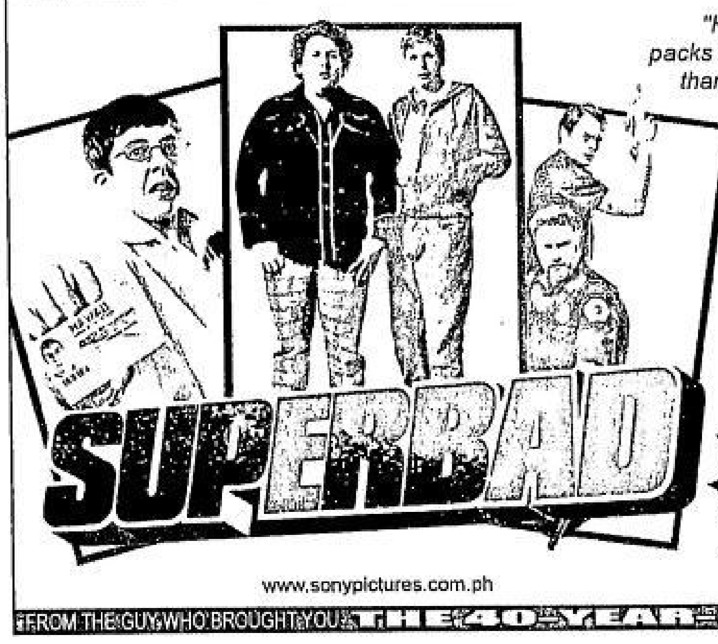
Sun Cellular joined AXN in the Amazing Race Mall Challenge held recently in Trinoma Mall as part of the promotional activities for Season 2 of "The "Amazing Race-Asia." Shown in photo are (from left) Terri Reed, Froilan Ambrocio and Aiza Tibayan of Team Sun Cellular; Angie Neoh, marketing manager of Sony Pictures Entertainment Networks Asia; Jojo Geslani, senior marketing manager of Sun, and Henry Reed. The Reeds formed one of the two teams from the Philippines who took part in "The Amazing Race-Asia 2."



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Tel. 421 - 2781-82
(047) - 232 - 2857

A Thanksgiving holiday at Holiday Inn

WHAT IS THANKSGIVING AND WHY DOES Roast Turkey always seem to be the highlight of a Thanksgiving dinner? Thanksgiving Day originated from a celebration held by the English Pilgrims who moved to the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts for a bountiful harvest after a grueling journey from their home country. Nowadays, Thanksgiving has evolved to be the second most important family celebration in America, next to Christmas of course. Though there is no real evidence that the tradition of serving turkey for Thanksgiving Dinner originated from the Pilgrim's first thanksgiving, there were some references mentioning wild turkeys or of "four men out fowling" returning with turkeys, ducks and geese. History or no history however, turkey has become a prominent symbol of Thanksgiving celebrations worldwide.

This year, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila will help you avoid the dreaded task of preparing turkey for your Thanksgiving dinner at home. Roast Turkey, with cranberry sauce, a choice of traditional or special stuffing and a side dish of sweet potatoes will grace the carving station of its buffet restaurant, Fab. Celebrate a Turkey lunch or dinner with your loved ones at the regular buffet price of P750++ per person.

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, FAB offers a fabulously diverse buffet, at an equally delicious price. Menus at FAB include rotisserie chicken, lamb and beef spare ribs; char-grilled beef, pork, chicken and selected seafoods and skewered vegetables; Mongolian and Hot Pot dishes with a choice of sauces and condiments, and a special feature of tableside preparations like Halo-halo, tropical fruit flambes, hot chocolate with native desserts or simple Sago't Gulaman in Buko Shell.

FAB is located at the 4th level of Holiday Inn Galleria Manila in Ortigas. It is also easily accessible through the hotel's 4th level entrance from Robinsons Galleria Mall. For inquiries and reservations, call 633-7111.

Relax. It's Thanksgiving at Holiday Inn.

The perfect place to stay in Subic

FOR BUSINESS OR LEISURE, COURTYARD Inn places you perfectly in the heart of Subic Bay Freeport Zone. It is within easy walking distance to many Subic Bay's attractions and is just 15 minutes drive away from Subic Bay International Airport. The hotel's 38 well-appointed rooms include free wireless high speed internet access (Wi-Fi), multi-channel cable TV, IDD/NDD telephone system, 24-hour running hot and cold water and fully stocked mini-bar. Enhancing service excellence, the hotel provides complimentary in-room tea/coffee/bottled water and newspaper everyday. Accommodation also includes free breakfast for two at the fine dining restaurant Aresi. Courtyard Inn has also launched the VIP Membership program. For an annual membership fee of P6,000 only, you are entitled to have complimentary stay at the Deluxe Room for two nights upon signing in, and another complimentary night on your 11th visit. You'll also be privileged to get discounts from Networx Jetsports for the water sports enthusiasts, Gerry's Grill (Subic branch), Aresi Restaurant, Zoobic Safari, FSC facilities such as the All Hands Beach, Jest Camp and the Extreme Adventure Park.

For inquiries contact Courtyard Inn at (047)252-2366; Sun Cell no.: 0922-882-0734; e-mail: courtyard@subictel.com. For corporate and/or group bookings and functions, contact sales department at tele-fax no.: (047)252-2367.

Pre-Christmas Charity Bazaar '07 at CSB

THE CSB HOTEL IN CLOSE COORDINATION with the De La Salle College of Saint Benilde School of Hotel & Restaurant and Institution Management would be staging a Pre-Christmas Charity Bazaar on Nov. 13-16, in front of the Angelo King Building at Arellano Ave. corner Estrada St. in Malate, Manila from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m.

The bazaar in cooperation with the Holy Trinity Parish Church in Estrada Street has for its objective to extend educational assistance to the underprivileged children through this annual event.

Shoppers can enjoy a range of imported and local products to include electronics, clothes, shoes, bags, various gift items, accessories and many more to choose from. The bazaar will also showcase a variety of scrumptious food products for the hungry stomach.

For further details and inquiries please contact the events marketing committee at 400-3333 local 502, 503 and 511, Monday to Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and look for Allan, Bern, Ann, Camille, Jerome or Philip.

INDIGENT KIDS CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN AT DISCOVERY SUITES

Children from Nayon ng Kabataan were treated to a fun-filled day as special guests of Discovery Suites' 'Bewitched' Halloween Party recently. Nayon ng Kabataan (The Village for the Youth) is the National Centre for neglected, exploited, abused, abandoned, and orphaned children under the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Built in 1968, the facility seeks to care, rehabilitate and protect children with the end goal of re-integrating them to their families and communities. The Village provides a comprehensive package of social services which includes home life services, training on productivity skills, medical, health and educational services. Legal assistance is also provided, when necessary. Wards of Nayon ng Kabataan, shown in photo with Discovery Suites General manager Bobby Horrigan were accorded VIP privileges and had full access to all of the hotel's Halloween activities like face-painting, a sumptuous brunch, parlor games, and Halloween gift packs from sponsors. They also enjoyed front row seats to the magic show by the talented Master Dem, courtesy of Viva Video, Country Style, Paracetamol Biogesic for Kids, Jack n' Jill, Mentos, Monde, Star Fruits, Star Pops, Magnolia and Jellyace.

THE MALAYAN PLAZA'S ROOM PACKAGES

Avail of the Malayan Plaza's (located at the heart of the Ortigas Commercial District), local residence packages exclusives for local residents and foreigners with ACR this November until Dec. 31. Suite categories include overnight accommodations at studio superior and de luxe at P3,800net and P4,100net; P4,800net and P5,100net for the one-bedroom superior and de luxe respectively; and P6,100net for a overnight stay at the two-bedroom superior. Still on-going this month is the Suite November deals. For an overnight accommodation at a one-bedroom deluxe unit at a package rate of P3,900++, enjoy the comforts of one of the country's most excellent serviced residence. Rates are valid for local residents and foreigners with ACR only until Nov. 30, and are subject to 10 percent service charge and prevailing government taxes. For more information, contact The Malayan Plaza at (02)706-0055, or e-mail sales@quantumsuites.com; website: www.themalayanplaza.com.

Tropezz November happenings

TROPEZZ IN GREENBELT IS the place to be this November, as one of the hottest bars in Manila will feature the country's top musical acts - and more - for the entire month. Musicians from different genres will take the stage from Mondays to Saturdays. Monday means Acoustic Night, with Pure Vibes providing a steady stream of acoustic guitar-driven melodies. Tuesday is Ladies' Night, with First Circle playing mellow romantic pop music. Everyone can look forward to Winston Night every Wednesday, when four popular bands will perform. Tropezz will also be opened up to the public free of charge. On Thursdays, Shayne with the Brown Sugar will play for RnB Night. The fun is doubled every Friday, which is Double Band Night, as Major Impact and Composed will play a variety of retro music. Aside from the regular featured acts; Tropezz will also play host to special events this November. On Nov. 23 the main dining room will be closed from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. to make way for a company exclusive event, but Major Impact will perform afterwards. Music fans shouldn't miss Rockin Revival on Nov. 23, where Filipino musicians will cover songs by the greatest music icons in history. Aside from offering great music, Tropezz serves unique culinary concoctions based on a variety of cuisines, including Chinese, Thai, French, Spanish, American, and of course, Filipino. The restaurant-bar, which can house up to 250 people, is open from Mondays to Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. the next day.

Legend Villas Yuletide treat

CHRISTMAS IN THE PHILIPpines is traditionally observed the longest, and this early it's not uncommon to hear Christmas carols and see the season's trimmings and lanterns adorn even the most humble of dwellings.

Shopping malls and shops as well as hotels and restaurants are also not far behind. Fully made up for the season, they entice customers to shop offering various merchandise for presents to family, friends, colleagues and loved ones.

The Legend Villas' Lola Maria Coffeeshop tries to bring good warmth and cheer this season of giving with pastries and traditional delicacies which would surely bring delight to everyone's heart.

On the holiday table are cinnamon roll, lemon squares, ensaymada and cakes. The cakes come in various flavors, all of which are all-time favorites-chocolate, sans rival, banana choco or the classic choco.

Maricel Leonardo, newly appointed sous chef of the Legend Villas shares the hotel has been known for serving traditional Filipino cuisine in its menu-be it desserts in the coffee shop or in buffet meals in its restaurant. This Christmas, Legend Villas helps make the festivities complete as these delicacies are usually the ones everybody looks forward to.

GRANDMA'S Chocolate Cake

These sinfully irresistible delicacies and excitingly delicious cakes come in handy and can be taken home or to the office. It can also be a welcome present anybody can give. For inquiries or reservations, visit Legend Villas' Lola Maria Coffeeshop at 60 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City, or call 633-1501 to 10.

Conway's Bar
813 8888 ext. 7026

Heaven 'n Eggs
(02) 818-2792
(02) 889-3791

Sushi-Ya
0917-84-sushi

Mey Lin Pot & Noodle House
899 6688 / 899 8999

Kalye Juan
0920-94-kalye

TONG YANG
Tong Yang Shabu-Shabu & BBQ Restaurant
899 3388 / 897 4148

Tony Roma's Restaurants
757 1926 / 771 1388

Palaisdaan Restaurant
Barangay Dapdap,
Tayabas, Quezon
(042) 793-3529

Island Foot & Body Wellness
899 1234 / 751 8296

Lola Maria Coffeeshop
60 Pioneer St.
Mandaluyong City
633-1501 to 10

Cafe Mediterranean
Greenbelt
894-4032

FJ's Grill
24 Timog Ave, Q.C.
376-2559

Bo's Coffee Club

The Old Spaghetti House
687-6630

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

North Park
73737

MUSEUM CAFÉ
Ayala Museum,
Greenbelt 4
757-3000
757-6000

Causeway Seafood Restaurant
24 Timog Ave, Q.C.
376-2559

Finio Restaurant
415-1278

Kopirotu Davao
(082)3016009

Clawdaddy Crabhouse and American Grill
636-5679

Chelsea Market & Cafe
909-7011
909-7012

TRINOMA: TRANSFORMING A CITY UP NORTH

Ayala Malls unveils another entertainment, shopping, and dining destination—TriNoma (Triangle in Northern Metro Manila). Located at the corner of North Avenue and EDSA, Quezon City, it offers a sanctuary to people from all walks of life away from the hustle and the bustle of the city.

PARK

A WHOLE NEW MALL EXPERIENCE

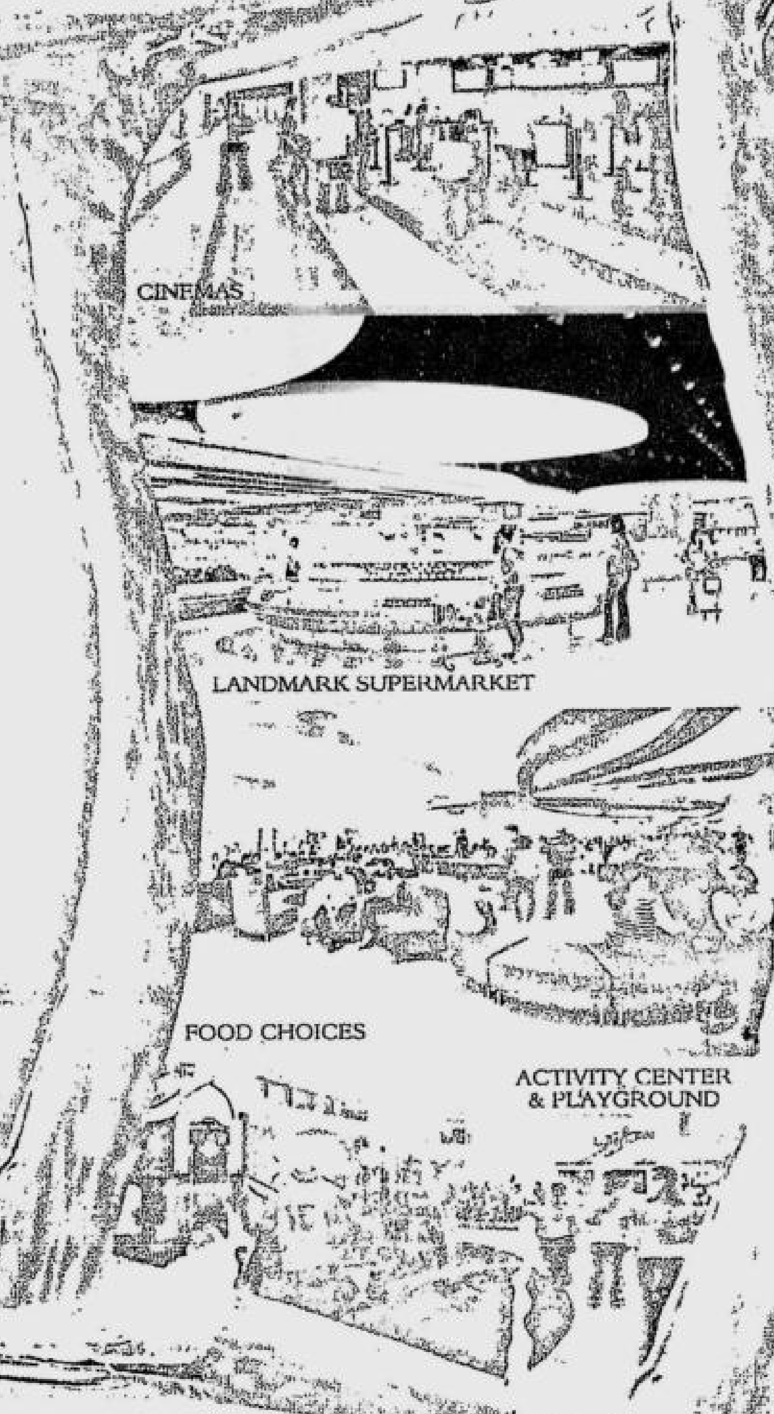
TriNoma's distinct architecture simply stands out against sprawling structures at the North. It is a perfect balance of modern design, natural beauty and functionality primed to make its mark in the northern horizon. At the mall's facade, there's a refreshing water feature laden with foliage that leaps rhythmically from level to level, gracefully welcoming mallers with splashes of green. Once inside, tons of surprises lie ahead making them leave all worries at the doorstep.

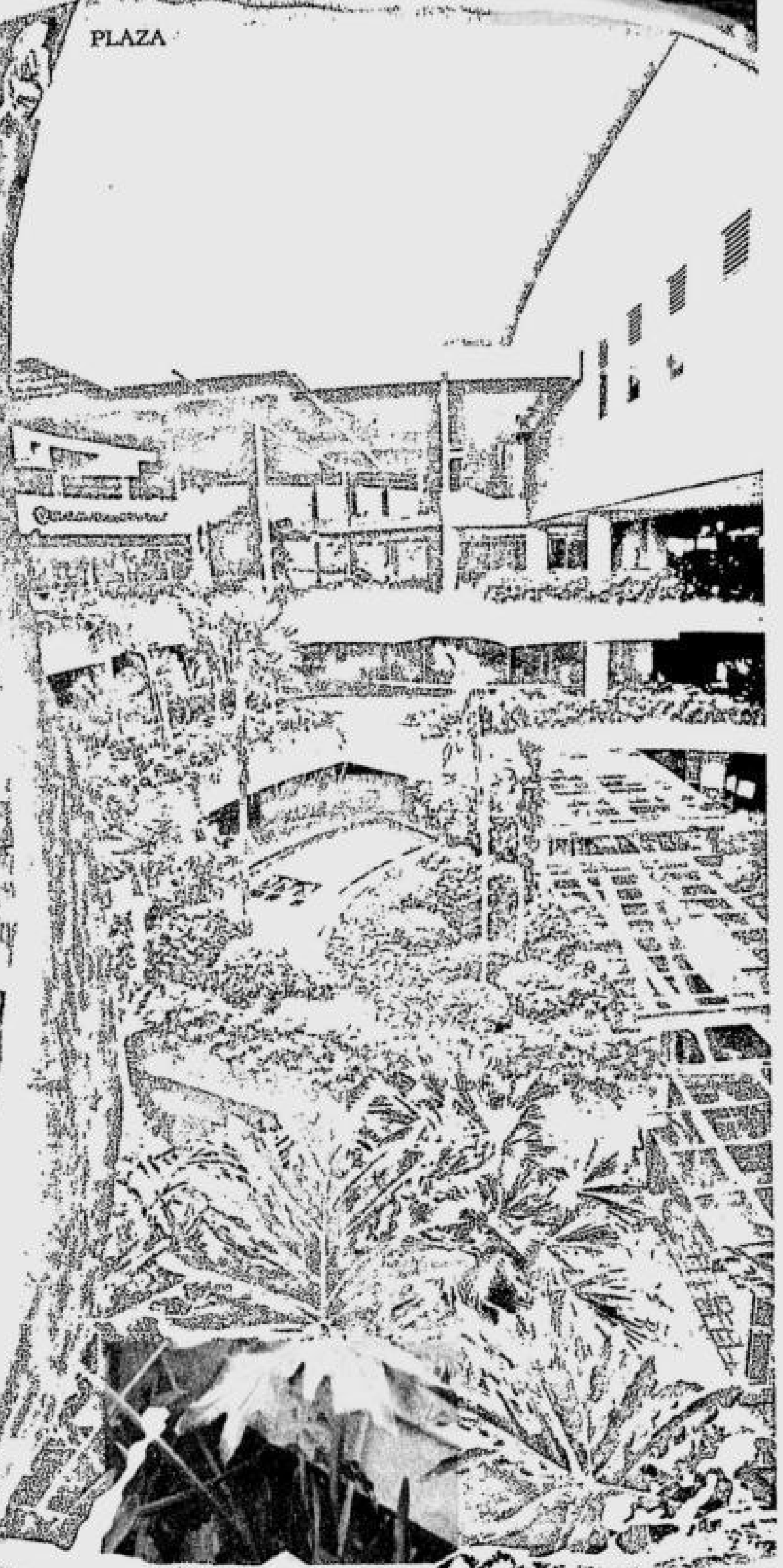
There is a spacious Activity Center, where world-class shows and special performances can be watched; seven state-of-the-art theaters offering a cinematic experience that will dazzle the senses; a truly soothing park situated on two levels where intimate shows can be staged, the lush greeneries renewing the spirit; and a broad array of dining choices—from restaurants to cafes—for a dining experience with family and friends that will not only fill the tummy, but also the heart. (And, should one seek help locating other cool places in TriNoma, its friendly concierge will gladly be of assistance.)

At TriNoma, one has the luxury of choice with:

- 550 retail stores showcasing foreign and local brands
- over 3,000 parking spaces
- a convenient mode of transport—as TriNoma is connected to the Metro Railway Transit and is accessible through various forms of public transport like taxi; bus, or jeepney.

A whole new mall experience awaits you! Drop by today and experience malling that is distinctly TriNoma.




PLAZA

TriNoma
Where all come together.

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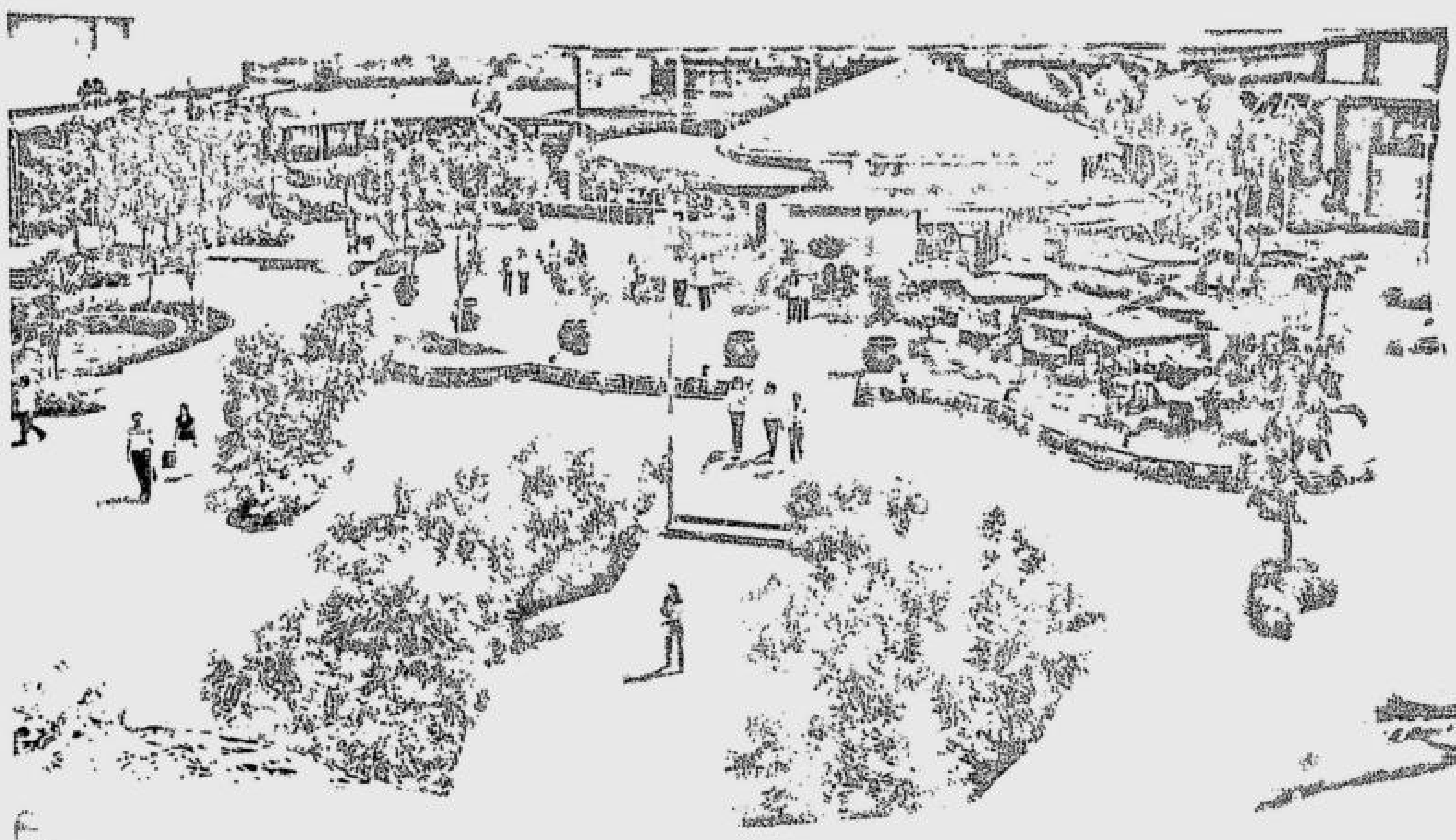

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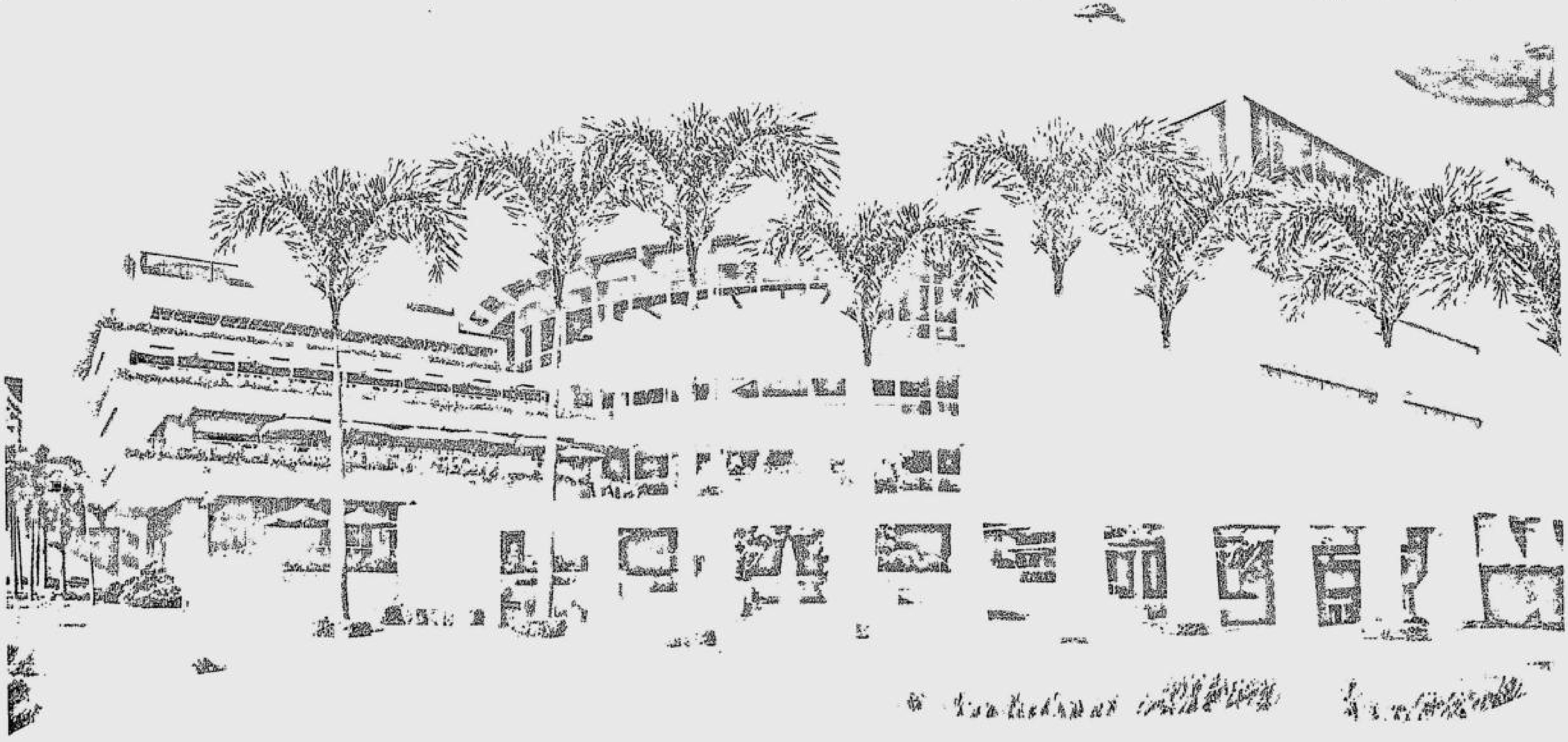
PLAZA
CINEMAS
LANDM RK



RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Where shopping, dining, and entertainment overflo

Everything everybody wants. From retail shops to concept stores. From fast food to fine din
From state-of-the-art cinemas to the biggest Timezone arcade.

Ayala Malls
Lovemall!

W.
ing.

TriNoma
Where all come together.

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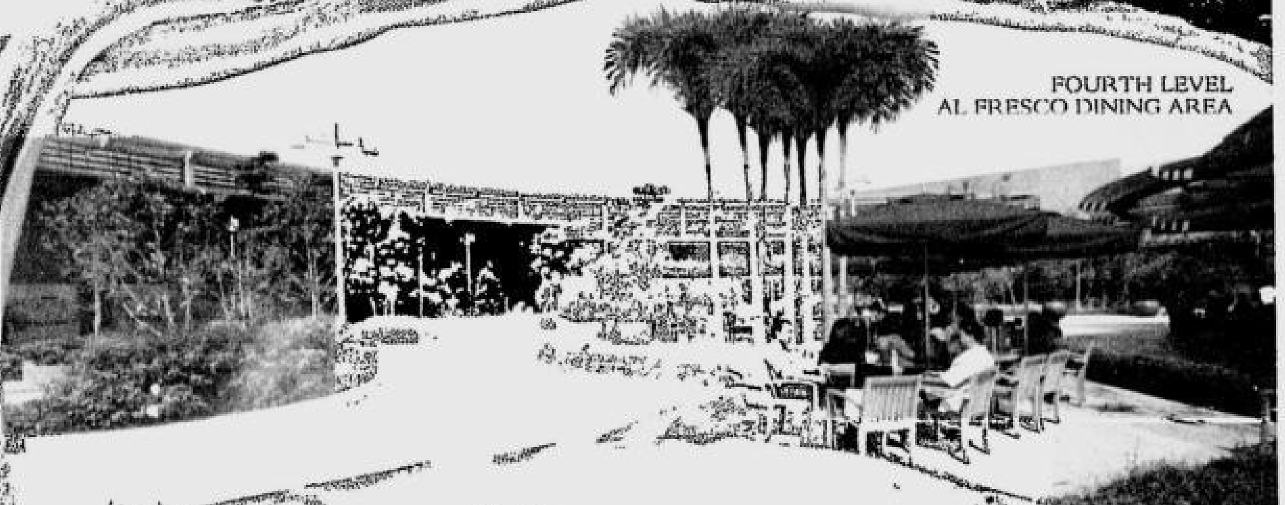
FOURTH LEVEL
AL FRESCO DINING AREA

Fourth Level

Al fresco dining taken to new heights for your sheer pleasure.

AMUSEMENT
Red Box Karaoke • Timezone

MUSIC & VIDEO
Astrovision

TELECOM/COMPUTERS/ ELECTRONICS
B-Connected

SPORTSWEAR & SPORTING GOODS
Olympic World

SPECIALTY FOOD/CAFES
Bun On The Run • Cold Rock • Five Cows • Fuzion • Holy Kettle Korn • Jamaican Pattie • Krispy Kreme • Max Brenner • Mexicali • Mrs. Field's Café • Muscle Beach • Nuts About Candy • Old Chang Kee • Oliver's • Smokey's • Starbucks • Tater's • Zing! Juice

RESTAURANTS
Bubba Gump* • Café Breton • Cyma • Fish & Co.* • Holy Cow • Italianni's • Jack's Loft • TGI Friday's

QUICK SERVICE RESTAURANT
McDonald's

ROW OF DESIGNER LABEL STORES

Third Level

Designer labels offer you a new shopping destination.

APPAREL
Bleach Catastrophe • Celio • Chocolate Clothing Co. • CK Jeans* • edc by Esprit • Gil • Gap • Kenneth Cole • Lacoste • Liz Claiborne • Mango* • Marks & Spencer • Mexx • Promod • Sisley • Springfield • TopShop/TopMan • Tough • Viktor Jeans • Zara

BOOKSTORE
Powerbooks

CHILDREN'S
Animaland • Barbie • Club Princess • Cuts for Tots • Florsheim Kids* • Gift Factory • Guess Kids* • Gymboree • Hallmark Babies • Hobbes and Landes • Kevin's Toys & Library • Kidsports • Levi's Kids • Meet My Feet • Mothercare • Osh Kosh • Toys R Us

HEALTH, BEAUTY & WELLNESS
Beauty Bar* • Belo Medical* • Essences* • Fitness First Platinum* • Fruits and Passion* • Healthy Options • Shiseido • The Natural Source • The Spa*

HOME & APPLIANCES
Abubot Asia • Asian Finds • Aussino • Automatic Centre • Cereo • Dimensione • Domicilio • Firma • Galleria Quattrocento • Interiors • Loft Details Furnishing • Restoration • Shell Canvas* • Showcase Carpet • Vayu

JEWELRY & WATCHES
Charriol

OPTICAL SHOP
See Optics

SERVICES
Alterations Plus

SHOES & BAGS
Bass • Crumpler • Ecco • Nine West • Schu • Substance • TRU

TELECOM/COMPUTERS/ ELECTRONICS
Canon 'd Zone • HP Invent • Motorola • Nokia • Power Mac • Sony • Sony Ericsson • Theater Works

SPECIALTY FOOD/CAFES
Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf • Fruits in Ice Cream

RESTAURANTS
ABE* • Bleu Steak House* • Casa Armas* • CPK • Good Earth • Haiku • Hossein's Persian Kebab

Second Level

Fashion brands offer you unlimited choices and surprises.

APPAREL
American Boulevard • Artwork • Benetton • Converse • David and Goliath • Debenham's* • EU-ED • Human • Iora • Izod • Jelly Bean • Ecko Unltd. • Naf Naf • Nautica • People Are People • Pop Cult • Sandwich • T-Box • The T-Shirt Project • Theme

CLINIC
Del Mundo Family Eye Clinic

HARDWARE
Handyman

HEALTH, BEAUTY & WELLNESS
Acqua Salon* • Bench Fix • Bruno's • GNC • Let's Face It • House of Obagi • Skin Food

JEWELRY & WATCHES
No Curfew • Omega • Rolex* • Tag Heuer* • Techno Marine* • Time Gear

MUSIC & VIDEO
House of Praise* • JB Music • Odyssey

OPTICAL SHOPS
Eye Shop • Vision Express

PHOTODEVELOPING
Photoline

SERVICES
Alter Station* • X Print

SHOES & BAGS
Aldo* • All Flip Flops • Ania • Birkenstock • Charles & Keith • Crocs • Dumond • Flojos • Florsheim • Geox • Lacoste Shoes • Merrell • Naturalizer • Pedro • Res-Toe-Run • Rockport • Rogue • Rue DeCMG • Sebago • Shoe Salon • Shoe Shop* • Skechers • Sledgers • Sumdex* • Travel Club • Trunk Show

SPECIALTY
Boyz Toys • Comic Alley • Courtside • Cutting Edge • Lil's Hobby Center • Motoworld* • Neutral Ground • Planet X Comic Shop • R' Option • Silverworks

SPORTSWEAR & SPORTING GOODS
adidas Originals • adidas Sports Concept Shop • Aktiv • Badminton Hub • Big Wave • G-Force (Oakley) • Khumbu Adventure • Lonsdale • Mizuno • Nike Park • Nike Women • Nothing But Water* • Planet Sports • Puma • Quiksilver • Royal Elastics • Rudy Project* • Speedo • Sportshouse • Stoked

TELECOM/COMPUTERS/ELECTRONICS
5th Avenue • Avant • CD-R King • Complink • Data Blitz • Digital Walker • Electroworld • Globotel • Infomax • Memoxpress • Netopia • PC Gadgets & Mobile Hub • Premium Logic • Silicon Valley • Smart Business Center • The Sun Shop • Villman

SPECIALTY FOOD/CAFES
Cavana • Chef D' Angelo • Cinnabon* • Crazy Crepe • Dairy Queen • Fruit Magic • Gloria Jean's* • Go Nuts Donuts • Homerun Hotdogs • Hungry Pac • Le Ching • Lord Stowe • Mesa Steak Sizzler • Paotsin Asia • Pinoy Sorbetes • Pita Mania • Razon's • Reyes Barbeque • Seattle's Best • Sencillo • Slammer Burgers • Smairu • Starbucks • World Chicken

RESTAURANTS
Cabalen • Cibo • Crustasia • Gerry's Grill • Krokodile • La Maison • Recipes • Zong

QUICK SERVICE RESTAURANTS
Brother's Burger • Pizza Hut • Sbarro • Taco Bell • Yellow Cab

TEEN ZONE

WALKWAY TO FLAGSHIP STORES

First Level

Flagship stores beckon so you can lose yourself.

APPAREL
All Boxed Up • Apple & Eve • Arrow • Bayo • Belleza • Bench Body • Bench • Black Shop • Blue Star Exchange • Blued • Bobby Novenario • Bossini • Caterpillar* • Cinderella • Collezione • Details • Diego • Dockers • Ensembles • Folded & Hung • ForMe • Freeway • Giordano • Girbaud • Guess • Hang Ten • Havin' A Baby • Jag • Kamiseta • Karimadon • Kashieca • Kisses & Co. • Leo • Levi's • Maldita • Maxine • Meg • Memo • Merger • Mirror • Mondi • Mossimo • Oxygen • PabDer • Penshoppe • Peppers • Petit Monde • Plains & Prints • Pois Belly and Kids • Regatta • SodaMan • Solo • Superstar • Tango • Tomato Unica Hija • Van Heusen • X • YRYS/Genevieve Gozum

BANK
BPI

BOOKSTORE
National Bookstore

CHILDREN'S
Big & Small Co. • Gingersnaps

CLINICS
Asian Eye Institute • Cosmedx • Medical City

DEPARTMENT STORES
Crossing's • Landmark

DRUGSTORE
Mercury Drug

HEALTH, BEAUTY & WELLNESS
Body Shop • David's Salon • Dermstrata • Enhance • Forever Flawless • HBC • RCC Amazing Touch • Kevin's Cut • Menage Salon* • The Face Shop

HOME & APPLIANCES
Anson's • Automatic Centre • Avida • Japan Home Center • Western Marketing

JEWELRY & WATCHES
Acme Jewelry • Chronos • M. Lhuillier • Miladay • Mix Gems • Park Lane* • Seiko • Swatch • Venice Creations • Watch Forum* • Watch Republic*

PHOTODEVELOPING
Kodak (General Photo Express) • Picture City

OPTICAL SHOPS
Eye Stop • Perez Optical • Serabia Optical • Shades and Sights* • The Optical Shop

SERVICES
Besa's • DHL • LBC • Made For U • Tivoli Money Changer • Western Union

SHOES & BAGS
Alberto • Banana Peel • Celine • Fino • Hush Puppies • Janylin • Leaveland • Manels • Mendrez • Rusty Lopez • Via Venetto • VNC • W. Brown • Wade

SPECIALTY SHOPS
Blade • Broadway Gems • Clipper • Gift Gate • Marcella's

TELECOM/COMPUTERS/ ELECTRONICS
Globe Business Center

SPORTSWEAR & SPORTING GOODS
Toby's

SPECIALTY FOOD/CAFE
Café Mary Grace

RESTAURANTS
Aveneto • Bacolod Chicken Inasal • Bangus • Gilligan's • Heaven n Eggs • Kamay Kainan • La Mesa Grill • Mangan • Mann Hann • Marina • Max's • Oki Oki • Pancake House • Pho Hoa • Sizzling Pepper Steak • Super Bowl of China • Teriyaki Boy

QUICK SERVICE RESTAURANTS
Burger King • Chowking • Goldilocks • Iceberg's • Jollibee • Kenny Rogers • KFC • McDonald's • Mister Donut • Red Ribbon • Tokyo Tokyo

Plaza & Lobby Level

A spacious lobby welcomes you with a wide array of stores.

BANKS
BPI* • Chinabank • RCBC

DRUGSTORE
Mercury Drug

HOME & APPLIANCES
Gourdo's • Kitchen Excellence by Exatech*

JEWELRY & WATCHES
AUM Jewelry • Jewelmer

SERVICES
PCSO Lotto • Sanry's

RESTAURANTS
Andok's • Chicken Bacolod • Congo Grill • Conti's* • Dencio's • Ineng's • North Park

SPECIALTY FOOD/ CAFES
Binalot • Breadtalk • Chowarma • Coffee Experience* • Floring's • Hen Lin • Kiss Balls* • Krispy Kreme* • Mister Donut • Naty's* • Pancit Malabon Express • PW Exchange* • Sisig Hooray • Tea & Therapy* • Tender Juicy Hotdog • Toast Box

LOBBY FOUNTAIN

* Soon to open
Website: www.ayalamalls.com.ph
Concierge: 901-3000

TriNoma
Where all come together.

4

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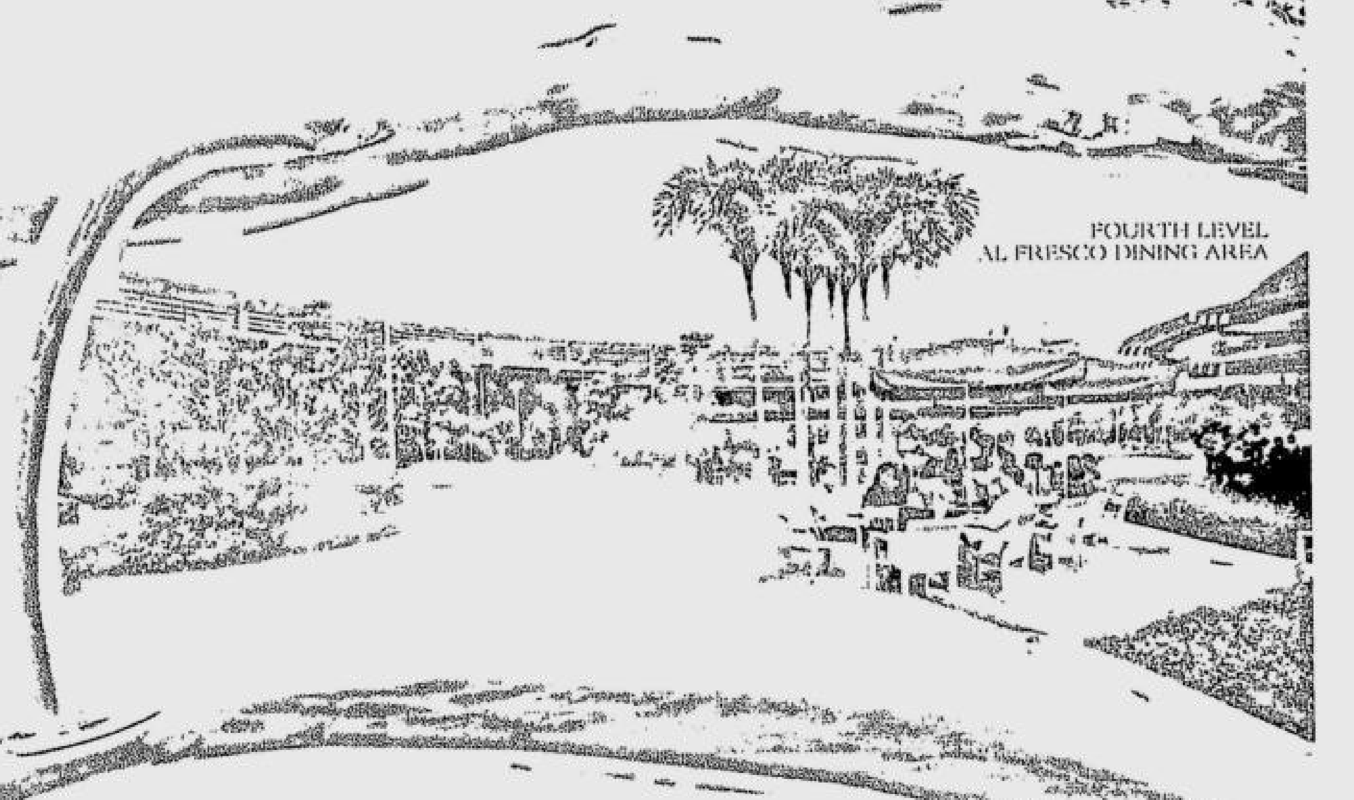

Fourth Level

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Red Box Karaoke • Timezone

MUSIC & VIDEO
Astrovision

TELECOM/COMPUTERS/ ELECTRONICS
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SPORTSWEAR & SPORTING GOODS
Olympic World

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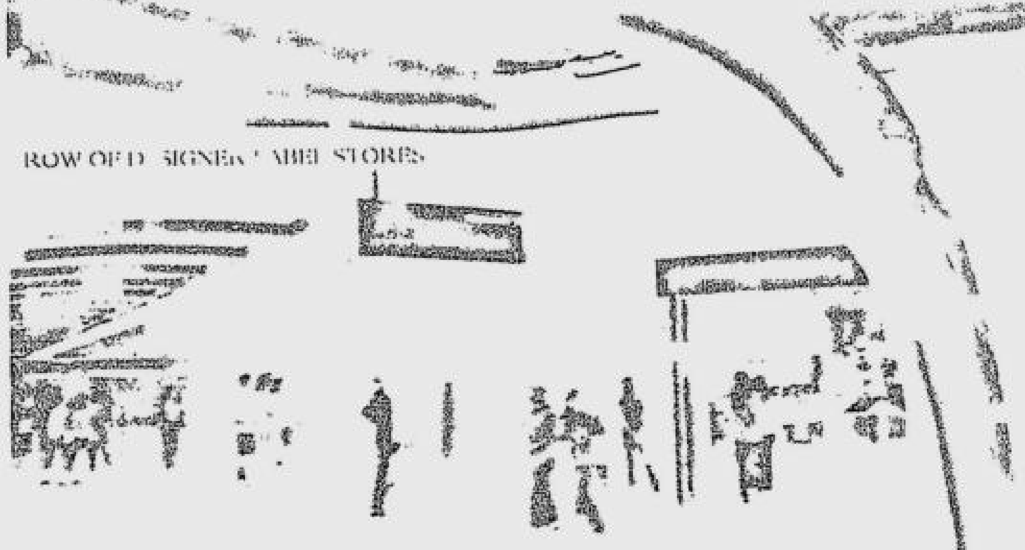
QUICK SERVICE RESTAURANT
McDonald's



Third Level

Designer labels offer you a new shopping destination.

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BOOKSTORE
Powerbooks

CHILDREN'S
Animaland • Barbie • Club Princess • Cuts for Tots • Florsheim Kids* • Gift Factory • Guess Kids* • Gymboree • Hallmark Babies • Hobbes and Landes • Kevin's Toys & Library • Kidsports • Levi's Kids • Meet My Feet • Mothercare • Osh Kosh • Toys R Us

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JEWELRY & WATCHES
Charriol

OPTICAL SHOP
See Optics

SERVICES
Alterations Plus

SHOES & BAGS
Bass • Crumpler • Ecco • Nine West • Schu • Substance • TRU

TELECOM/COMPUTERS/ ELECTRONICS
Canon 'd Zone • HP Invent • Motorola • Nokia • Power Mac • Sony • Sony Ericsson • Theater Works

SPECIALTY FOOD/CAFES
Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf • Fruits in Ice Cream

RESTAURANTS
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Second Level

Fashion brands offer you unlimited choices and surprises.

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CLINIC
Del Mundo Family Eye Clinic

HARDWARE
Handyman

HEALTH, BEAUTY & WELLNESS
Acqua Salon* • Bench Fix • Bruno's • GNC • Let's Face It • House of Obagi • Skin Food

JEWELRY & WATCHES
No Curfew • Omega • Rolex* • Tag Heuer* • Techno Marine* • Time Gear

MUSIC & VIDEO
House of Praise* • JB Music • Odyssey

OPTICAL SHOPS
Eye Shop • Vision Express

PHOTODEVELOPING
Photoline

SERVICES
Alter Station* • X Print

SHOES & BAGS
Aldo* • All Flip Flops • Anla • Birkenstock • Charles & Keith • Crocs • Dumond • Flojos • Florsheim • Geox • Lacoste Shoes • Merrell • Naturalizer • Pedro • Res-Toe-Run • Rockport • Rogue • Rue DeCMG • Sebago • Shoe Salon • Shoe Shop* • Skechers • Sledgers • Sumdex* • Travel Club • Trunk Show

SPECIALTY
Boyz Toys • Comic Alley • Courtside • Cutting Edge • Lil's Hobby Center • Motoworld* • Neutral Ground • Planet X Comic Shop • R' Option • Silverworks

SPORTSWEAR & SPORTING GOODS
adidas Originals • adidas Sports Concept Shop • Aktiv • Badminton Hub • Big Wave • G-Force (Oakley) • Khumbu Adventure • Lonsdale • Mizuno • Nike Park • Nike Women • Nothing But Water* • Planet Sports • Puma • Quiksilver • Royal Elastics • Rudy Project* • Speedo • Sportshouse • Stoked

TELECOM/COMPUTERS/ELECTRONICS
5th Avenue • Avant • CD-R King • Complink • Data Blitz • Digital Walker • Electroworld • Globotel • Infomax • Memoxpress • Netopia • PC Gadgets & Mobile Hub • Premium Logic • Silicon Valley • Smart Business Center • The Sun Shop • Villman

SPECIALTY FOOD/CAFES
Cavana • Chef D' Angelo • Cinnabon* • Crazy Crepe • Dairy Queen • Fruit Magic • Gloria Jean's* • Go Nuts Donuts • Homerun Hotdogs • Hungry Pac • Le Ching • Lord Stowe • Mesa Steak Sizzler • Paotsin Asia • Pinoy Sorbetes • Pita Mania • Razon's • Reyes Barbeque • Seattle's Best • Sencillo • Slammer Burgers • Smairu • Starbucks • World Chicken

RESTAURANTS
Cabalen • Cibo • Crustasia • Gerry's Grill • Krokodile • La Maison • Recipes • Zong

QUICK SERVICE RESTAURANTS
Brother's Burger • Pizza Hut • Sbarro • Taco Bell • Yellow Cab

WALKWAY TO
FLAGSHIP STORES

First Level

Flagship stores beckon so you can lose yourself.

APPAREL
All Boxed Up • Apple & Eve • Arrow • Bayo • Belleza • Bench Body • Bench • Black Shop • Blue Star Exchange • Blued • Bobby Novenario • Bossini • Caterpillar* • Cinderella • Collezione • Details • Diego • Dockers • Ensembles • Folded & Hung • ForMe • Freeway • Giordano • Girbaud • Guess • Hang Ten • Havin' A Baby • Jag • Kamiseta • Karimadon • Kashieca • Kisses & Co. • Lee • Levi's • Maldita • Maxine • Meg • Memo • Merger • Mirror • Mondi • Mossimo • Oxygen • PabDer • Penshoppe • Peppers • Petit Monde • Plains & Prints • Pois Belly and Kids • Regatta • SodaMan • Solo • Superstar • Tango • Tomato Unica Hija • Van Heusen • X • YRYS/Genevieve Gozum

BANK
BPI

BOOKSTORE
National Bookstore

CHILDREN'S
Big & Small Co. • Gingersnaps

CLINICS
Asian Eye Institute • Cosmedx • Medical City

DEPARTMENT STORES
Crossing's • Landmark

DRUGSTORE
Mercury Drug

HEALTH, BEAUTY & WELLNESS
Body Shop • David's Salon • Dermstrata • Enhance • Forever Flawless • HBC • RCC Amazing Touch • Kevin's Cut • Menage Salon* • The Face Shop

HOME & APPLIANCES
Anson's • Automatic Centre • Avida • Japan Home Center • Western Marketing

JEWELRY & WATCHES
Acme Jewelry • Chronos • M. Lhuillier • Miladay • Mix Gems • Park Lane* • Seiko • Swatch • Venice Creations • Watch Forum* • Watch Republic*

PHOTODEVELOPING
Kodak (General Photo Express) • Picture City

OPTICAL SHOPS
Eye Stop • Perez Optical • Sarabia Optical • Shades and Sights* • The Optical Shop

SERVICES
Besa's • DHL • LBC • Made For U • Tivoli Money Changer • Western Union

SHOES & BAGS
Alberto • Banana Peel • Celine • Fino • Hush Puppies • Janylin • Leaveland • Manels • Mendrez • Rusty Lopez • Via Venetto • VNC • W. Brown • Wade

SPECIALTY SHOPS
Blade • Broadway Gems • Clipper • Gift Gate • Marcella's

TELECOM/COMPUTERS/ ELECTRONICS
Globe Business Center

SPORTSWEAR & SPORTING GOODS
Toby's

SPECIALTY FOOD/CAFE
Café Mary Grace

RESTAURANTS
Aveneto • Bacolod Chicken Inasal • Bangus • Giligan's • Heaven n Eggs • Kamay Kainan • La Mesa Grill • Mangan • Mann Hann • Marina • Max's • Oki Oki • Pancake House • Pho Hoa • Sizzling Pepper Steak • Super Bowl of China • Teriyaki Boy

QUICK SERVICE RESTAURANTS
Burger King • Chowking • Goldilocks • Iceberg's • Jollibee • Kenny Rogers • KFC • McDonald's • Mister Donut • Red Ribbon • Tokyo Tokyo

Plaza & Lobby Level

A spacious lobby welcomes you with a wide array of stores.

BANKS
BPI* • Chinabank • RCBC

DRUGSTORE
Mercury Drug

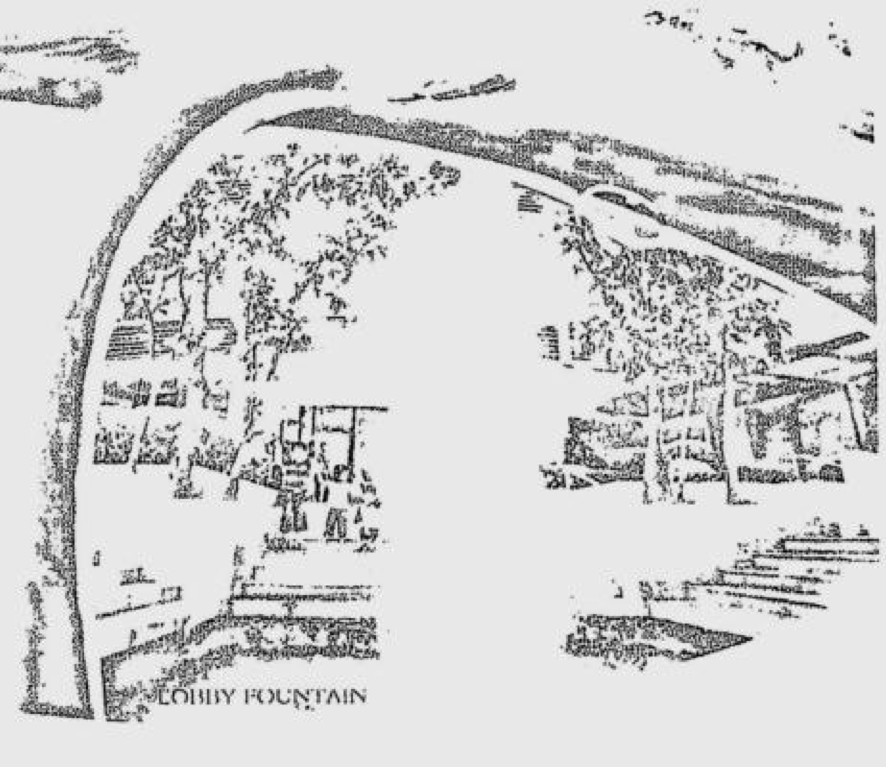
HOME & APPLIANCES
Gourdo's • Kitchen Excellence by Exatech*

JEWELRY & WATCHES
AUM Jewelry • Jewelmer

SERVICES
PCSO Lotto • Sanry's

RESTAURANTS
Andok's • Chicken Bacolod • Congo Grill • Conti's* • Dencio's • Ineng's • North Park

SPECIALTY FOOD/ CAFES
Binalot • Breadtalk • Chowarma • Coffee Experience* • Floring's • Hen Lin • Kiss Balls* • Krispy Kreme* • Mister Donut • Naty's* • Pancit Malabon Express • PW Exchange* • Sisig Hooray • Tea & Therapy* • Tender Juicy Hotdog • Toast Box



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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME